



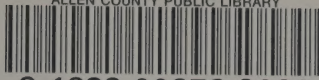
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**HISTORY OF JERICO**

**AND** *+*

**JACKSONVILLE TOWNSHIP**

*Ia.*

**by**

**H. W. Brueckel**

Printed and Published  
by the  
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## DEDICATION

It gave me great pleasure to write the History of Jerico and Jacksonville Township and to travel again the road of pleasant memories of fine people and hospitable homes, of places of love and youthful experience.

People of the midnight sun or from the green island, they were the most noble people I ever met in my life and purchased my heart by their goodness, many have gone to their reward but who never will be forgotten.

We dedicate this issue to the old pioneers who made Jacksonville Township and Jerico, as also the untiring workers and most beloved by the people, Rev. Tjernagel, Father Sampson, Rev. Finstadt, the Knutson's, Roberson's, Robinson's, Anderson's, and Johnson's as also the Commerford's, Whalen's, Ralph's and Weigel's, to name only a few.

We hope this booklet brings you as many pleasure hours of reading as it gave me joy in writing it.

Bill Brueckel



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## *The English, Irish, Germans, Norwegians*

### **1852**

Ninety-eight years ago the first settlers came in the community later called Jerico, they were English settlers which later were replaced by the Norwegians. One of the earliest settlers of the community was Francis Dane who lived on a farm now occupied by John O. Knutson. He came to the place in 1852 from Vermont. Francis Dane was a Republican who addressed the public often and for a number of years served as a member of the board of supervisors. He also is the father in the naming of Jerico when in 1887 a postoffice was established in the Landon store. Other notable characters were Peter Johnson for the Norwegians, Pat Commerford for the Irish and Fred Heimerdinger for the Germans.

### **1848**

Dr. David Dale Owen wrote in his report to the commissioner of the General Land Office in the year 1848 describing the geology of Jacksonville Township "The geologist who undertakes to investigate the vast prairie country of the Mississippi Valley must be provided with no common share of patience and perseverance he must be content to travel for half a day together without

seeing aught but rich black soil, civered as far as the eye can see even down to the very edge of the small streams with a thick and high growth of grass with perhaps a faint outline of timber cutting the distant horizon. He must be prepared to wade swamps, to ford streams waist deep or in times of freshets to plunge and breast the current, he must not shrink beneath a boiling sun, even without a bush to cast a faint shadow over an occasional resting place, he must think himself fortunate if he can reach at night a few shattered oaks to replenish his fire, and boil his camp kettle, and he may consider it a special instance of good luck if in return he can catch a glimpse of a rock exposure once or twice a day. He may travel for days together without lighting on any object more interesting than a hillock of the prairie dog, or the broad lair of the Bison.

The conditions under which the work of David Dale Owen was writing has quite changed. The farmers have planted their groves, while improved roads and well constructed bridges relieve the traveler almost wholly from wading the creeks.



## CHAPTER II

## Organization of Jacksonville Township in 1858

In the organization of Chickasaw County, a section in the north east corner of the county, an area comprising one fourth of the county was established as one of the five election districts of Chickasaw County. To this large division of the county the Euphonious name of Obispo was given, it composed of Congressional Township 96-½ and 97 Range 11 and 12. The boundaries of Obispo Dis-

of limestone developed on the Iowan drift, with some sandy tracts found near the creeks and rivers. The valleys are so universally distributed along streams that it seems scarcely necessary to do more in discussing their distribution, than simple to mention fact. Near Jerico the Crane Creek Valley gravels take the form of fairly well defined terraces.

The township is well watered by springs, Crane and Plum Creek and the Little Wapsie. The Crane is the main creek of the Township it springs



Crane Creek took its name from a large wading bird which were found in large number there. An open creek at Jerico it becomes lined with high bluffs and is a sizable river east of Alpha.

district remained without change until the year, 1858. At the March term of the County Court in 1858 an order was made designating congressional township 96 and south half of Township 97, range 12 as a new Township under the name of Jacksonville.

up northeast of Riceville in Howard County and flows in its course almost the entire length of the township into the Turkey River.

Jacksonville Township made up the central northern part of Chickasaw County and is divided into 54 square miles if we want to travel around the township in the east and by New Hampton Township in the south, it has a total acreage of 34,009.64 acres. Over most of the Township the soil is rich deep black loam, mixed with weather fragments





Originally there was a growth of timber along the streams. This timber was not of large growth and not of the kind to manufacture or make lumber, but it served the early settlers with a good purpose in the supply of fuel, and for building their primitive cabins and for rails with which to fence their land. Some of the timber is nearly all gone.

The township is well supplied with an abundance of pure wholesome water. There are not many springs in the township compared with some other regions of our state, but good well water is readily found on every farm. In a well near Jerico the limestone is reached at a depth of 221 ft. and at Jerico itself, for example, water is obtained on any of the residences lots or farms by simple driving points into the gravel to the depth of from 14 to 25 feet, and they get unfailing supplies of good drinking water.

The native grasses that originally grew in abundance on the prairie land afforded sustenance for stock of the early settlers, and this grass still grows in great abundance on the uncultivated lands, affording advantages for stock raising, a business in which the farmers of the township are largely engaged.

Agriculture is the most important industry of the township and in summary on the whole there is no part of Iowa more favored in the matter of soils than Chickasaw County, and also the farms of Iowa are worth more than all the Gold and Silver mines in America.

## Chapter II

### Towns of Jacksonville Township

#### Jerico 1856

The first settlers who bought land in this region were Yankee's from the New England states who came as early as 1853.

History points back to an old settler named Geo. Greene who bought land from the government in the year 1856 where now the town of Jerico is located. Later on Norwegian, German and Irish settlers moved into this region, coming mostly from the state of Wisconsin.

1869

In the year 1869 Peter Johnson and his brother Tolaf purchased land from John Badgley and later built a blacksmith shop on the corner where the Jerico Tavern now stands. This was the very first business building and the beginning of the town of Jerico.

1887

J. Landon built a store on the other corner opposite of the blacksmith shop. This building was used both for store and residence, later Mr. Landon built a residence on the southside of the road across from his store.

#### Feed Mill Built

In the same year a feed mill was built by Loui Sandborn southwest of the residence of the Lando's, later the mill was sold to Fred Sherward of New Hampton and George Heilburger of Lawler. In 1899 Martin Nelson and Tom Otteson bought the plant, until 1903 the business was discontinued on account of poor circumstances.



### Naming of Jerico

There was an old settler two miles east of the present town of Jerico who had purchased land from the government in 1852. His name was Francis Dane. At that time a post office was established in the Landon Store 1887 and he gave that office the name Jerico. At that time the town of Little Turkey was known as New Jerusalem and it is believed that this fact influenced Dane to name the new town Jerico.

### Jerico Postoffice 1887

Twice a week mail was hauled from Lawler by the Postmaster of Jerico to his office, three postmasters served the office, the first one being J. Landon, followed by Charley Commerford and the third and last postmaster was P. J. Commerford who discontinued the office in 1912 after the establishment of free rural routes by the government and the postmaster itself. The longest terms of postmastership held P. J. Commerford who told of many hardship trips in hauling mail in the winter time. People came as far as Lourdes and near Alta Vista to get their mail here and east of Reilly Ridge. It was very very difficult to handle the mail at that time reports Pat Commerford because so many parties went by different names there were Soren Johnson, Ellestad Johnson, Store Knut, Blinde Knut, Soren Knut, Palsa Knut and Jetmund Knut. There were also the Olies, Jetmund, Ole, Andrews Ole, James Ole and Albert Ole. The post inspector came twice a year.

### When they cracked the Safe in the Post Office

When they cracked the safe in the Post Office. In the year 1893 there was a world fair at Chicago and Pat Commerford being postmaster in Jerico at that time had left to attend

the fair. The cream checks were always cashed at the store and the money was sent from New Hampton to cover those checks and was deposited for safe keeping in the safe, there were some thieves that pryed the west window and cracked the safe they took \$350.00 from the safe but they didn't get the money for the cream checks which was usual dispatched from the Second National Bank of New Hampton, because the money arrived one day late.

### New Store in 1889

J. Landon built another store east of the first one, a two story structure in which the upper part was used as living quarters. The store was owned by several storkeepers, Clare Williamson followed Landon then Charley Leonard of Lawler, Ed P. Johnson, Tom Molloy, Henry Gilbert, Carl Amble, Joe Ralph, Glenn Ralph Zack Kapler, after his death his wife Stella Kapler and their son and daughter Richard and Gladies Kapler after which it came in possession of the present owner George Weigel.

### From a Needle to a Washing Machine

Pat Commerford tells about the country store of Jerico which he conducted for 41 years, to be the leading center for gathering during the evening and the hot stove leagues. The present day generation has only vague ideas of winters 30 or 40 years ago. According to the octogenarians and with an air of certainty the old timers will relate vivid tales some pertaining to their walking through drifted areas with the thermometer hovering far below the zero mark.





**ONE DAY FOR . . .  
TEN MILES WALK**

It would take a full day to complete a journey of ten or fifteen miles, in order to obtain the weekly supply of groceries. Goods or merchandise was first shipped to Lawler for Jerico but later New Hampton was selected and this trip was made four times a week. Pat Commerford held a team of horses specially for this and the trip to take a day, Mr. Commerford stated that he sold about a car load of sugar and a car load of flour. Customers came to the Jerico store of about a nine mile circle, they paid their store bills about once in a year and that was after threshing time.

**41 Years, a Storekeeper**

Pat Commerford, Mike Whalen and Mary Whalen were the most noted persons of Jerico. Pat Com-business, Mike Whalen in the Hall and Stallion business and Mary Whalen in the boarding business. After the establishment of the rural mail routes, the mail carrier of New Hampton, Route 1, Orie Hutchinson, and New Hampton, Route 4, Mr. Hill stopped for dinner at the Whalen place and rested their teams.

**Story of Pat Commerford  
(came from Ireland)**

"My father and mother, both came from Ireland, my mother from County Kaben and was born a Galligan, my father arrived here at Boston in 1849 and later moved to Wisconsin and made his home in Racine, married my mother, Mary Galligan. To this union 7 boys and 1 girl were born, namely, Charley, John, Terrance, James, Pat J., Eugene, and Martheaus. My father after living a few years in Racine, Wisc., moved to Iowa and settled on a farm near where Reilly Ridge is now located, he came to Iowa in

1854 and it is claimed that he built the first house in Utica township, which consisted of shed-like inhabitation, made out of logs. My dad homesteaded a hundred-sixty acres of land. He did his marketing in an hauled his grain to McGregor by ox team, it required a week to make the trip. The family shared in all the hardship and privations incident to settlement upon the frontier and father performed the arduous task of developing the wild land and converting it into a good farm. As the years passed, he prospered and after some time built a modern home and became the owner of a well improved farm property, one its first in the township. He also extended the boundaries of his place by additional purchase until he had two hundred and forty acres of land, of which he afterwards donated fifteen acres to the Catholic Church, and upon that tract has been erected the present handsome church edifice that now stands at Reilly Ridge."

**To McGregor on Skies**

"There was one time when much sickness was at Reilly Ridge and no doctor and store was closer than McGregor. It was in the winter time, and it happened to be one of those old-fashioned winters, stormy and drifting and the people were suffering. Mr. Commerford found a heart and took a pair of skies and went to McGregor, a distance of 65 miles with out stopping, returning the next day with groceries and medicine for the sick. My father was a very religious man and was ready to help and died at an early age of fifty-four. He was buried in the old cemetery across from the present church awaiting resurrection day."



### When I Worked on the Farm

When my father died I was a boy of about 12 years of age and I and my brother Charley took up the duties in cultivating the home farm which was done until the year 1892 when I moved to Jerico.

### Why Pat D didn't Like Milk

People often have wondered why Pat didn't like milk—well here it is, one time when Pat was working on the farm he was engaged in binding grain on the ground, it was a terrible hot day and he was left alone in the field, and there was no water either to be able to quench his thirst, so he went to a neighbor and here the woman gave him a bowl of cold milk which tasted very good to him, but when he came back to the field he became ill with cramps in his stomach and became so sick that he laid down in the field where his folks found him. Since that time he was done drinking milk.

### When They Robbed the Store

In the year 1897 some individuals who slept in Welches barn right south of Jerico and the next morning bought a lunch in Pat's store. They returned the next night and entered the store with skeleton keys. They stole 27 pairs of shoes and some other goods. Pat notified the Sheriff of New Hampton who was at that time Charley Schnurr and at once a search was made for the thieves. Mr. Mommerford and Mr. Schnurr searched for two weeks and finely tracked a clue to Jackson Junction where pedlers were selling shoes. Those pedlers had a room in the hotel filled with stolen goods and here was also where Pat recognized some of his goods, shoe

boxes with his usual markings. Pat also met one of his friends on the street wearing a new pair of shoes, inquiring where he had purchased those shoes. Pat and the sheriff laid for those peddlers and finally was caught near Protivin and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

### Fourth of July Celebration

Fourth of July celebrations were always held formerly in Jerico and boweries were built near the Tollaf Johnson's Blacksmith Shop on the corner where later the Lincoln House was built by Mr. Brueckel as also boweries were built near Crane Creek. Ole and Jack Johnson were the riddlers for the occasions. At that time there were big gatherings speeches were delivered, Fred Kichmann and others made speeches. People came from all over the country. At the last fourth of July celebration sponsored in Jerico, people experienced quite a novelty, they had a ride in the first automobile ever owned by a citizen in this section, John Finegan. People amused themselves better in those days and was more true to each other.

### When Pat Took a Wife

When Pat made a nice path between Jerico through the field to the Welches farm he thought it may be just as well to get married. So he took Mary Welch as his better half and what a wedding they had. The New Hampton Courier made the following report about their wedding. About seven hundred guests were at the Commerford-Welch wedding. P. J. Commerford and Miss Mary Welch were united in marriage at the St. Ignatius Church at Reilly Ridge, Tuesday morning, October 29th, 1901. This was probably one of





the largest weddings ever held in the county. There being about 700 present out of the 500 families invited. After the ceremony at the church a wedding feast that lasted all day and all night was spread at the home of Mrs. Thos. Welch, mother of the bride. Two beefs and a couple of hogs furnished part of the food for the invited guests. In the evening a ball was given in the hall at Jerico where fine music was furnished. During the day the Cresco Band furnished the music.

### Founding of the Creamery

1890

Before the erection of a creamery at Jerico cream was gathered by teams from the farmers of the vicinity and brought to Cresco by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Johnson. In 1890 Messers FrFancis Dane, Nelson, Charley Miller, W. P. Reed, Charley Commerford, Mike Welch, John Ralph, T. N. Reilly and Andre Weigel were the organizers of the Jerico Creamery Farmers Association, which is now one of Chickasaw Co. strongest organizations.

### FIRST CREAMERY

The first creamery was a frame building erected north of town on a lot licensed from Andrew Braham and the first buttermaker who was in charge of same was H. J. Candy of Lawler. There were about 85 members who from a very large territory, as, Saude, Lawler and Reilly Ridge were hauling cream to this creamery.

### OTHER BUILDINGS

Later a lot was purchased from Andrew Braham on the west-end of the town and a creamery was estab-

lished facing north and south, also a home for the buttermaker was built.

### FIRE DESTROY'S CREAMERY

At about the noon hour on August 20, 1919 the Jerico Creamery was destroyed by fire which supposed to have originated in the engine room, thirteen tubs of butter and a scale were all that was saved. The building and equipment represented a value of \$6,000 which was covered by an insurance of \$3,500. The board of directors immediately held a meeting and decided to erect a fire-proof building at a cost of \$10,000 and while the creamery was being built cream from Jerico was sold to the Whalen Creamery at Elma.

### NEW CREAMERY

The new creamery which was erected in the fall of 1919 and spring of 1920 by John Weers of Elma at a cost of \$16,000 is one of the finest and most up-to-date butter factories in the state of Iowa. The creamery is built of brick and hollow tile, making it absolutely fireproof. The machinery is all new and the equipment in general is far ahead of the machinery in a average town.



### BUTTERMAKERS

Many buttermakers have served the Jerico creamery and those of



the best known are H. J. Candy, John Finegan, J. P. Kelly, Bill Nelson, Alfred Robinson, Orvil Landsverk and the present buttermaker is Mr. Qualley. Last year, 1949, the creamery done a business of \$104,754.32 and a total of 164,140 pounds of butter were manufactured that year. Luman Gilbert is President, Theodore Knutson, vice President, Linus Quirk, John Amble and Theo G. H. Haugen, Directors.

#### Jerico in the Saloon Time

--Some time ago Jerico was a very lively place and all kinds of fire water was served by Mike Whalen and Chris Kirschmann.

A license was not required at that time to operate a saloon, it could remain open as long as the owner wished, consequently the doors were open on Sundays. Pool tables and dinning chairs and tables could also be found in the saloon, they were a sociable family meeting place patterned on a European style.

1890

At the same time when the Jerico creamery was organized Chris Kirschmann built a store where now Nelson's garage is located and in 1891 a man named Tom Thompson was in charge.

#### First Saloon

In 1891 Mike Whalen started the first saloon in Jerico, building a shack-like shelter which later was used a chicken house.

1893

In 1893 Chris Kirschmann changed his store into a saloon, making better money selling fire water, he also connected his saloon with a Billiard Hall. This being the first Billiard Hall in Jerico.

1894

--Kelly and Glass became the owners of Kirschmann's saloon and billiard hall and in the same year John and Mike Whalen built another building which was standing east of the present garage. The basement was used as a saloon and operated by Mike Whalen and the building was used by John Whalen, his brother as a store.

#### Jerico In Its Prime

In the year 1894 there were in Jerico three stores, two saloons, one billiard hall, ne creamery, ne church, one blacksmith shop, one feed mill, one post office and five residences.

Th saloons were closed in 1897.

1931

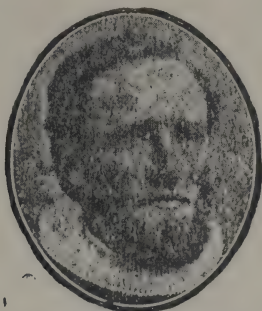
After a span of 34 years beer was again sold in Jerico off the premisses by Zack Kapler who secured a beer A permit. In 1940 a tavern was established on the corner going north in a building which had been erected by William Brueckel, by Chuck Gleason, the tavern was owned by several owners and is still located there with a billiard hall in connection.

#### Irvin Oleson Built Residence

Irvin Oleson, a carpenter by trade built a residence east of the present Mike Weigel residence, this was the second residence built in Jerico and Mr. Oleson sold this residence to Iver Dahlen which in 1893 became the property of Miss Mary Whalen, who used the building to serve meals and as living quarters for her and her brother Mike. After her passing the building was purchased by Andrew Thrundson who is still in possession of the building.







Rev John I. Moses  
1869 --- 1889

#### The First House of Worship in Jerico

In the year 1892 the first house of worship was erected by the Lutheran of the community and Rev. Moses was in charge of the congregation. Before registering the history of the Lutheran Church in Jerico we must go back to 1865.

#### Banished By The Indians

There were ten families expelled by the Indians who had their homes at Yankton, South Dak. who came to this section in the year 1865. They were Ole Anderson, Thor Halverson, Sjur Torbjorenson, Hans and Otto Oleson, Christien Oleson, Jetmen E. Knutson, Michael Munson, Helleon Matheots and Mikel Skare. All these families came from Gosterdahlen, Norway and thanks to the ten families named above the Norwegian settlement was made at Jerico and community.

1867

Not long after the settlement of the above families was organized by Dr. V. Koren who was doing missionary work during these times. The first religious report was made in the year 1867 at the time sixty confirmed members belonged to the

congregation, together with Little Turkey until the year 1868 when a call was attended by J. T. Moses who served as pastor for twenty years.



Dr V Koren  
1864 --- 1869

#### The Mesurions 1888

About the year 1888 a doctoring controfence concerning the call conversion and election was raging in the Norwegian synod to which church body the congegation belonged. In those doctoring questions the majority of the Norwegian Synod agreed with the German Mesurion Synod and therefore was called Mesurion Synod.



Jetmen E. Knutson's Log Cabin





**Jetmen E. Knutson's Log Cabin**

Was the scene of many religious gatherings in the young days of Jerico, here young people met with their large family which was dedicated to the love of God. They faced the hard pioneer days and reared their children to be right with the world, a neighbor of Francis Dane they served their community well. The Knutson's had left Cedar Falls where they had made good money and came up here only for one reason to give their children a better Christian training. Note in the picture below how Mrs. Knutson is holding the family bible.



**Mr. and Mrs. Jetmen Knutson**  
**The Mesurions**

At a pastor conference in Decorah, Iowa a document was drawn up stating the majority of the pastors. Rev. Moses signed these documents and professions under the question

above mentioned. At a meeting of the congregation March 29, 1899 it was moved the Rev. Moses withdraw his name from the document and the congregation would not acknowledge him as their pastor in the future. This motion came to a vote and the result was 20 for him and 37 against him. At the meeting of the congregation on January 29, 1889 it was moved that the congregation withdraw from the Norwegian Synod giving a reason that the Synods were doubtful of the doctrine concerning conversion and election, 23 voted for the motion and 29 against it. But at the meeting on February 22, 1889 the motion was reconsidered and that they remain in the Synod, 30 voted for and none against it. There were two separated factions in the congregation, those who wanted to remain in the Norwegian Synod and those who withdrawn from it. There was a great controversy between those two classes about the property. The Synod party offered to either give or except \$600.00 for their shares in the property. The anti-measurions purchased the old property and the Synod moved up to Jerico.

**The Erection of a Church 1890**

In the year of 1890 a piece of ground was bought from Tollof Johnson. The place now consists of about three acre and a church was erected and dedicated in 1891. The church was a neat frame building and was put up at a cost of \$1,800.

**The Hands of the Elements 1892**

The unmerciful hands of the elements destroyed the building of praise. In June 1892 a bolt of light-



ning struck the steeple of the church and from there the fire started and burned the church to the ground. The congregation decided to rebuild a new church at once and the same was reay in November of 1892 at a cost of about \$1,800.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weigel, Pioneers and bu lders of the community of Jerico, Picture was taken at the time of their Golden Wedding Anniverrary with Father Manternach present.

### Third Church Built

The old church building, the home of the congregation for twenty-one years was torn down on account of the growth off the congregation. In the spring of 1913 a building committee was appointed consisting of Tom Munson, Andrew Braham, Albert Knutson, A. Oleson, Nels Anderson and Rev. M. K. Bleken, And the cornerstone was laid for the new

church by Prof. C. K. Preus of De corah on Nev. 23, 1913. The new church was put up at a cost of about \$1,800 and the beautiful colored windows were donated by the Young Peoples Society. Later a sacious kitchn and dining room was built in the basement of the church, the church is electric lighted and the altar is adorned with a beautiful painting of Christ the Arisen Savior, the floor is built slanting toward the altar, at all the church is a credit to the congregation and one of the largest nd most beautiful Lutheran churches in this part of the state.

### Ministers of the Congregation

The first pastor who served this congregation was Rev. Dr. V. Koren who served from 1864 to 1869, his successor was Rev. John T. Moses who came in the year 1869 and served until 1889, Rev. Ness succeeded him from 1889 to 1895 and Rev. Xavier from 1895 to 1903 and Rev. Rugland from 1903 to 1909 and from the year 1909 to 1922 until his death Rev. M. K. Bleken, one of the most beloved pastors ever served the congregation.



Pvt. 1st Class Torkel Attleson









Beautiful Interior of the Jerico Lutheran Church

After a sick leave granted him by the congregation Rev. Bleken passed away and he is now resting awaiting resurrection day up on the hill marked by a stone with the inscription "Thank you Jerico and Saude Churches" as he so often said. From the fall of 1912 to spring 1923 Rev. Forseth had charge of the congregation and from 1923 Rev. Tjernagel was pastor.

#### BAPTISM

Complete records are on hand from the year 1877 and the records from the year 1869 to 1879 were destroyed by fire. From the year 1874 to 1889, 554 children were baptised and from the year 1890 to 1926, 476 children were baptized and 494 children were confirmed and the sacrament of matrimony was administered to 135. The number of burials up to 1926 were 203.

In 1926 about 80 families were with a soul count of 400 and 230 confirmed members. The ladies aid

has been doing excellent work for the church, but the young peoples society has been let up in activities in recent years.

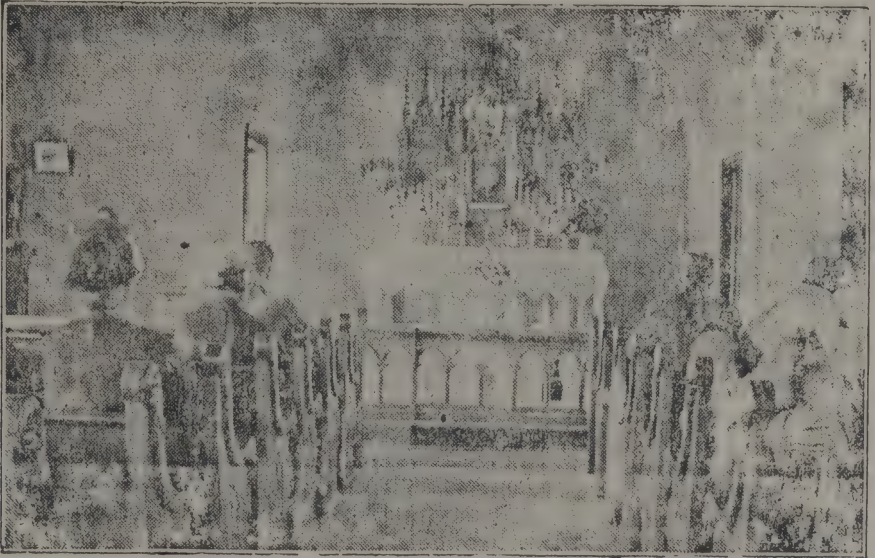
The property of the Jerico Lutheran Synod Church has been kept in presentable manner, its a beauty spot and a credit to the congregation.

#### Second House of Worship

##### St. Patrick Church, 1912

As soon as the little town of Jerico was in its brightest blossom through great efforts and noble hearted pioneers of this section one church was erected by faithful Lutheran christians. Another house of worship was in need. There were living several Catholic families east and west of Jerico too far away from any Catholic church to be able to fulfill regular their religious duties and obligation. Therefore the ardent desire for a Catholic church in Jerico was uppermost in their minds. This was a most difficult task as all kinds of





Interior of St. Patrick Church of Jerico taken by Father Manternach during 13 hour devotion. People at prayer left Mrs John Kearns of New Hampton, Mrs. Irvin Weigel and Mr. Irvin Weigel, at right Evelyn O'Halleran, Mrs. George Quirk and Mr. George Quirk in the year 1927

obstacles arose as soon as the population in and around the town gathered together and pledged themselves to build a church of their own. Some parties prophesied that Jerico would not exist long on account of its location, others claimed that the proposed Catholic church would be too close to several other Catholic churches. Man proposes and God disposes.

#### Men of the Hour

T. Ralph, Joe and William Ralph, Chas and Pat Commerford, Mike Whalen and John Kearns, John Quirk, Mike Weigel, L. Weigel, Andrew Weigel and John Welch re-

ceived after many sacrifices permission from the Archbishop J. J. Keane of Dupuque to build a church in Jerico. A location for the new edifice was next considered and two acres of land east of the Mary Whalen residence was purchased from Mrs. T. Johnson for \$200.00 and in the year 1912 the church was completed at a cost of \$8,000.00. In the spring of 1922 a partly basement was dug and a furnace installed, the church was newly painted and decorated. In 1926 Father McDonald had the interior of the church decorated. Later the whole basement was dug and converted into a church hall also colored windows were installed







Residence District of Jerico

and the interior of the church was newly decorated and a bell was put in the tower of the church.

#### A Bad Practice Stopped

In the year 1924 when Father Sampson was killed at Alta Vista in a auto accident the parish of Jerico was without a priest for several months but the parish was served during that time by priest from Dubuque. During that time a lady of the parish died and her funeral and burial was made in New Hampton, this was the first bad example which was followed by

others and was endangering the life of the parish in Jerico. Mr. Brueckel who was janitor that time for the congregation and had the cemetery and the surrounding of the church beautified had the idea in stopping this practice by publishing a church paper which he called "The Cross" in which he published articles to foster loyalty for the church in Jerico. It was a monthly small paper the first copy which was published in February 1932 by 1935 this bad practice by some members of the parish was stopped and "The Cross" had its mission fulfilled.

#### ALBERT KNUTSON



The late Albert Knutson was one of the leading citizens of the Jerico Community, served in the affairs for the Jerico Lutheran church, for the Creamery and Telephone Co. His counsel was solicited. Rearing a large family, their home was the scene of many young peoples church parties.



### Priest of the Parish

The priest who served the congregation were Rev. C. Sampson who served from 1912 to 1925, his successor was Rev. L. Craney who was pastor until 1920 when Rev. Neeman took charge, this was a very pias priest who drove a horse and buggy from Reilly Ridge to Jerico and read from his prayer book to make the trip, Father Neeman remained pastor of the parish for three years and he was followed by Rev. Manternach in 1923, this priest organized a choir and held Sunday school after Mass for the children, he also remodeled the parsonage at Reilly Ridge. During the summer months of 1923 until about Christmas a priest from Dubuque came to serve the congregation. Rev. Sampson on his own request returned to Jerico again the second time to serve the people he loved until his fatal death on Thursday May 1st, 1924 on the Alta Vista railroad crossing when the auto in which he was riding was hit by a freight train and he was instantly killed. From 1924 until November of 1926 Rev. MacDonald was priest of the parish, he was a very able preacher and was called to many neighboring parishes to preach. He organized the Holy Name Society and the Altar Society and a christian instruction class was organized by him and adopted by his successors. From the fall of 1926 Rev. Meyerhoffer took possession of the parish.

### Baptism

The first child to be baptized was Eugene Commerford and there has been baptized since, 48 children, six marriages were performed and eight burials were made. About twenty-

six families are members of the congregation with a total of 136 souls reporting the history of the parish until 1926.

### HISTORICAL DATA

#### Jerico Lutheran Church 1926-1950

From January 1926 - Oct. 15, 1950 there were:

209 Baptisms, 195 Confirmations, 49 marriages solemnized, and 89 burials.

Membership on October 15, 1950 stands at 320 souls (baptized) of whom 250 are confirmed members.

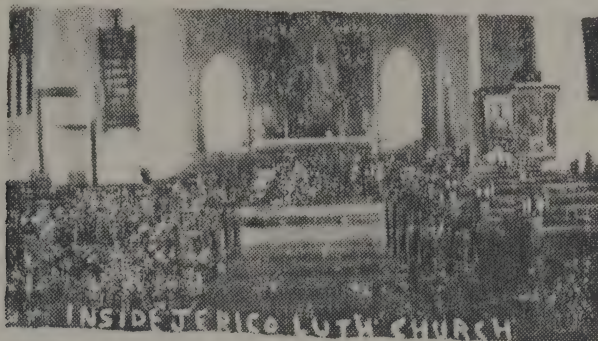
Rev. H. M. Tjernagel served as pastor till his death in March of 1940. He was succeeded by his son, the Rev. N. S. Tjernagel, who shepherded the flock till the fall of 1945. During the long vacancy that ensued, the Rev. C. H. Schroe, der of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Elma served as vacancy-pastor. The present pastor, Rev. M. H. Otto, was installed in August, 1946. The Rev. N. S. Tjernagel is now principal of the Lutheran High School in Racine, Wisc.

In April 1926 there appeared a parish paper from the hand of Rev. H. M. Tjernagel, entitled "The Assistant Pastor," which was continued as a monthly publication also during the pastorate of his son. The present pastor likewise publishes a monthly parish paper, but under a different name.

In 1940 the Jerico congregation (with it's sister congregation of Saude assisted in the establishing of the Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Hampton by giving financial aid and by releasing some of its members to the new mission. Though







**JERICO LUTH. CHURCH**

Third church built in 1913 at a cost of \$13,000. furnished.

It has been slow, the growth of this mission has been steady, so that it has had its own pastor since 1946.

In the fall of 1946 the congregation established a Christian Day School. An unused public school building near Elma was purchased and moved on to the church property over a

basement previously dug. The repairing and renovating of the building was done entirely by volunteer labor on the part of the members, with a neat and cheerful classroom as the result of their efforts.

The first teacher was Student of Theology Theo. A. Aaberg. Miss Joan Gilbo of Chicago, Ill., is now teaching for the third consecutive year. The average enrollment during the past four years has been 16 pupils.

The Ladies Aid Society is quite active, meeting twice a month, and contributing much to the beautifying of the church and its assembly room in the basement. Since World War II the Young People's Society is again meeting regularly for Bible study.

The present church was built at a cost of \$13,000, furnished, with Tom Thompson for many years as its janitor who keeps the property beautified. Its members, descendants of religious Norweigan stock, friendly and hospitable, deserve credit for their church. Since the year 1945 divine services are held every Sunday.





### NORTH JERICO SCHOOL 1919

with Siebel Robinson as teacher, some pupils in the picture are Omar Robinson, Taft Sanderson, Omar T. Thompson, Sina H. Anderson, Oscar H. Anderson, Henry J. Knutson

#### The First School

The first school was erected south of Jerico in the year 1880 and the North Jerico school was established in 1882. It was little frame buildings which are still standing and used with the exception of the south school a new building was erected west of the limits of Jerico which is now used as a school. The writer has preserved some Essays which were written by pupils attending those schools. The following is a essay written by Alorth Nelson when he was in grade V at the age of 11, "Our Home Town Jerico." Seeing Jerico is my home town, I am glad Mr. Brueckel has chosen this for one of our "Essays."

Jerico is a little village about 11 miles from a railroad town. It is located in the North Eastern part of the state of Iowa.

This little town has a creamery owned by the farmers and Bill Nel-

son is the buttermaker at this creamery,

There is a barber shop owned by Mr. Brueckel. He has a library and sends books to six schools every month. He selects one book every month to write on and the one who writes the best Essay is awarded 1st prize given by Mr. Brueckel.

He has soft drinks and ice cream in season.

There is a blacksmith shop owned by Martin Nelson. He has a lumber saw and saws lumber in the spring.

There is a store owned by Glen Ralph.

There is a garage owned by Halvod Nelson.

In this little village there is a creek in which there ought to be a dam to furnish the village with light.

I would like to see this village increase in population and grow up to be a prosperous city.







SUNDAY MORNING AFTER MASS IN FRONT OF  
PAT'S STORE.

1890

1897

In the year 1890 the buttermaker's house was built north of the late Paul Sanderson house, now owned by Jeff A. Knutson family. The house was later moved northwest of the Martin Nelson residence where in the year 1903 a new creamery was erected.

After the saloons were closed in the year 1897 Mike Whalen and his brother John purchased the Chris Kirschmann building which was used as a store, pool hall and saloon and converted it into a dance hall. This was the first and last hall erected.



JERICO HALL CONVERTED INTO A GARAGE 1925

ted in Jerico. Dances were given about once a month and meals were served in the building east of the hall which were used by the Whalen bros formerly as a store and a

saloon. Mary, their sister took care of the meals. The hall was used for dances until about 1925 when the building was sold to Halvor Nelson who remodeled the building into a





ZACK KAPLER

Storekeeper of Jerico

garage and residence and gas service station.

1900

Martin Nelson in company of Tom Otteson purchased the old feed mill which was discontinued in 1903. In 1900 Martin Nelson purchased a lot from John Welch on which he built a blacksmith shop. In 1925 he also had a saw mill for sawing native lumber. In the same year also purchased a lot from Andrew Braham, on that lot he built a home and after his passing the shop was rented to several blacksmith who remained only a short while, one was Charles Allen who later moved to Waucoma. Later the shop was torn down.



STELLA KAPLER

Maraged the store after husband's passing until her death.

1903

The creamery which was erected in the year 1890 on a lot north of the present Jeff A Knutson home was destroyed on New Years night 1903 by fire. In the meantime of erecting a new creamery butter was made in the old feed mill that Pat Commerford purchased from Martin Nelson. The first of June the new creamery, a frame building and erected on a different location, the west-end of Jerico was opened for service.





## 1904

In 1904, Edward T. Johnson built a residence north on Lincoln Street but the house was later sold to Ole Anderson who moved it one mile north of Jerico to be used as a farm home, where it still stands today.

## 1916

In the fall of 1916, Mr. Brueckel moved from Alta Vista to Jerico and established a Barber Shop and Pool Hall in the building east of the dance hall which was formerly used as a dining hall which property belonged to Mike Whalen, in the spring of 1917 he had to vacate the building and moved in a small building which had been used as a machine shed belonging to Paul Sanderson, he made no charge for the building, Mr. Sanderson sold Brueckel also a lot on the corner for \$125, and a school building was purchased two miles east of Alta Vista by Mr. Brueckel who dismantled the building and the material was used for his new building in Jerico, many good people of Jerico helped him to overcome his difficulties, in the fall of 1917 the building was ready, being the first property he ever had, he called it the Lincoln House in honor of Abraham Lincoln. He built a cement walk across the street as also all around his building, he also installed electric lights by having a farm plant at his place furnishing lights also for the Cummerford Store later he built a bowery behind his building and dances were given during the summer of 1926 in that year the former P. J. Cummerford Store was used by him also for his barber shop and Newspaper Office.

## 1918

In 1918 many boys were drafted for service and it was very lonesome in the community, many people were also suffering with the flu and a quite a few died of the disease, there were 25 service stars in the Jerico Lutheran Church for boys that had left the congregation for military service, as also some boys from the Catholic Parish of Jerico and the Crane Creek Lutheran Church, some of the boys who had left for service were John C. Johnson, Alfred N. Anderson, Ole A. Knutson, Carl A. Knutson, Torkel Attleson, James Attleson, Roys C. Power, Ole Urness, Hans Attleson, Ole A. Anderson, Charles D. Cochran, Ed. D. Collins, Art Cutsforth, Bert Douglas, Alfred I. Gordon, Henry L. Braham, Ole O. Johnson, Gilbert N. Johnson, Grover T. Johnson, Ole A. Johnson, Benjamin Kramer, Joe Kramer, Wm L. Arnold, Henry T. Attleson, Miller O. Oleson, Sjur G. Sanderson, John J. Seery, Olaf A. Thronson, Jens B. Vikdal, Sjur Vikdal, Sylvester J. Weigel, Joe U. Arnold, Micheal E. Slindee, William D. Kearney. Boys that died in the service were James Attleson, John I. Kearns, Roy C. Power and Ole Urness who had come from Norway just a few years before. In the Red Cross Chapter A. O. Vaala was R. C. Jerico gave to the Red Cross financial help of \$943.74 and Saude \$1,000.49. The Jerico Auxiliary was organized August 31, 1917 with Mrs. H. H. Gilbert and Mrs. Carl Amble as Chairman and Mrs. John Welch as vice-chairman, Treasurer, Mrs. Paul Sanderson and Miss Hattie Johnson and Secretary, Miss Mabel Braham and Miss Florence Kearns. There were about 102 members, about 20 dozen muslin bandages were made, 109 hospital





### INTERIOR OF LINCOLN HOUSE

During the first world war years. Note Soldiers Union Plaque on the wall and the Jerico Service Star. Pool Players are Lu man Gilbert and Joe Barness.

garments and 67 knitted garments and 87 garments for Relief. Five comfort kits were also made and filled.

### SAUDE AUXILIARY

On Thursday, August 30, 1917 a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Nels Amble and the following officers were elected. Chairman Miss Anna C. Vaala and Mrs. Carl Natvig, vic-chairman Mrs. Muns Munson, Treasurer Mrs. B. S. Vikdal and Mrs. Alfred Steensland, Secre-

tary Mrs. H. A. Grimso their highest membership was about 158. About 80 muslin bandages were made for the Surgical Dressing Department, completed hospital garments consisting of 3 hospital shirts, 4 robes, 18 bed jackets, 64 pajama suits and 11 underdrawers. The work done by the knitters were 5 helmets, 25 mufflers, 61 pairs of socks, 68 sweaters, 51 pairs of wristlets and 2 blocks. Besides these, 15 boys drawers and 12 petticoats were made for Relief.







### Liberty Loans

On the Liberty Loans Committee for Jacksonville Township were P. J. Commerford, Micheal Reilly, Mike Kearney, Tom Attleson, John Kearns Jim McGinn, Tom Munson, Adolph Munson, Jim Seery, Henrk Galligan, W. J. David, Nels Anderson, Everett Mills, Albert Knutson, Henry Momberg, F. D. Markle, John Quirk and John Jerdee. The total subscription to the last three loans were \$178,333. Of this amount \$56,300 was subscribed of the Third Loan; \$74,250 of the Fourth Loan and \$47,783 of the Fifth Loan.

### Utica Township

In Utica Township the men were J. J. Lukes, Hans Grimso, G. G. Vaala, E. T. Smith, J. P. Landswerk, Joe Koudelka, B. F. Jones, L. F. Fisher, C. J. Slindee, Mike Connell, Will Quirk and Frank Lynch. Liberty Loans were purchased in the amount of \$207,861. This amount is divided as follows: Third Loan \$66,450; Fourth Loan \$85,150; Fifth Loan \$56,261.

### War Savings Stamps

For Jacksonville Township W. G. Shaffer was chairman for the war savings stamps drive and \$19,585. were pledged.

For Utica Township J. J. Goheen was chairman and \$24,845. were pledged.

### Council of Defense

For Jacksonville Township, Everette Mills was the precinct chairman and for Utica, G. G. Vaala.

The council of defense was to aid the government in mobilizing men, crops and every phase of the United States industries. They also furnished funds to make purchases of ath-

letic equipment for the 88th Division at Camp Dodge.

On the Women's Committee for Jerico was Miss Hatie Johnson and for Saude, Miss Annette Natvig, their business was to enlist all women in the cooperation in the various economical measures by the government and impress upon them the value of their aid in bringing about greater efficiency in all defense work.

September 19, 1917

The first boys that were drafted and left for Camp Dodge from New Hampton was on Sept. 19, 1917, from Camp Dodge they were shipped across, many letters were received from the boys while in service and here we publish one from Grover Johnson, the letter was written at Obermendig, Germany on May 6, 1919.

Friend Mr. Brueckel,

Received your letter some time ago and was glad to see you are still on top where a fellow belongs.

We are having fine weather here and verything looks nice and green, and the people here are busy planting cartoflen, its comical to see them go out to work here with one horse or an oxen and a plow and they move about as fast as a snail, all the goats in this country are having young ones now all you can hear around here is bah, bah, did you ever get any of them darn goat fleas in your clothes? I did, and they are worse than the cooties.

There are some of the boys here getting thir discharge, there are some going home every week, we expect some replacements from the U. S. soon. I am in 4th class so I will be with the last bunch to leave here but expect to be home some time before Christmas.



Had a letter from home—your folks and relatives are all well except your brother who died some time ago. Best wishes from them.

Had a letter from Carl Knutson last wrote he was fine and dandy and expected to go home soon, also had letters from Douglas Cochran Henry Attleson, Ole Johnson, Sever Roberson, and Alfred Gordan they are all in France and are all fine, Have been on many trips on the Rhine and have been in the most of big cities around here as Coblenz, Bonn, Colone, Andernach, they very nice cities, also visited the place where the Kaiser stayed at Coblenz but the old devil was gone now ha! ha!

I am going on a furlough soon but don't know where I'll go yet perhaps to Paris or Belgium.

I done what you asked of me and this all I can say. Well how is everything at Jerico I hope I can be soon back to play you a game of pool.

Well Bill I have no news so will close, hoping this finds you as well as it leaves me. I remain.

Private Gro. T. Johnson  
Co. H. 38 Inf. A. P. O. 740

#### BOYS RETURNING HOME

Olaf Thronson served at Camp Pike, Ark. in a Infantry Regiment and in France. Was discharged, Mar. 6, 1919.

Alfred N. Anderson served in the 337th Machine Gun Co., was in England and France and was discharged June 11, 1919.

B. H. Kramer served in the 119th Infantry Regiment at Camp Scover, N. C. he was in the battle at Kemmel Mountain and was stationed in England, France, Belgium and Luxemburg, he was discharged April 15,

1919.

James Attleson served at Camp Jefferson Barracks, October 4, 1918 and contacted the flu there, died October 26, 1918 and burial was made in the Crane Creek cemetery.

Henry Attleson served in England and France in the 339th Machine Gun Co. and was discharged June 12th, 1919.

Olie Fossen served in the camps of Dodge, Picke and Dix, N. J., he landed in France September 1, 1918 and was discharged July 7, 1919.

Charley T. Kramer served at Camp Dodge from September 5, 1918 until April 11, 1919.

Henry Braham enlisted into the Army and was put into the 428th Telegraph Battalion at Camp Meade August 11, 1918 and was discharged from Camp Dodge, January 18, 1919.

Douglas Cochran served in the 352 Infantry at Camp Dodge, Washington D. C. and France and was discharged July 13, 1919.

Roy Powers was drafted September 1917 to Camp Dodge, landed in France in April 1918 was killed in the battle at the Argonne Forest. Oct. 1918 an dlaid to rest at Commune-de Sur Brusallies, Meuse in France.

Andrew Knuson served in the 87th Infantry from September 4, 1918 until January 27, 1919 at Camp Dodge.

Melvin Powers was drafted to Camp McCarder, Texas, May 10, 1918 and discharged from Camp Dodge, August 1, 1919.

All the churches had special services for the returned service men.

#### Organizing of the Soldiers Union

On April 9, 1919, Mr. William Brueckel invited all returned soldiers to a meeting at his pace for the organization of a Soldiers Union





which was organized on that date with the help of Andrew Knutson, Sylvester Weigel and Henry Braham and who had their meeting every two weeks. The emembership reached the large number of 80 and dances and birthday parties were M|wR\_ vlo-ta, 99---- udaheld held among the members. A baseball club was also organized in the Union as also was a public library.

#### Soldiers Union Public Library

In the summer of 1919 the Soldiers Union Public Library was organized by Mr. William Brueckel donating some books and urging other people to do the same, after a short while the library was well established and received books from citizens of New Hampton and a very large selection from the Public Library from New Hampton as also a selection of books from the State of Iowa every year. Six country schools were served, each receiving a selection of 35 books to be changed each month and pupils were urged to write Essays on the books which were loaned to the schools urging the pupils to read them by offering prizes for writing the best Essay on books. Many people also made use of the library and was the largest association library in the county. Today the library is located in Waucoma in a special library reading room with a selection of more than 2000 books.

#### Town Parties Given

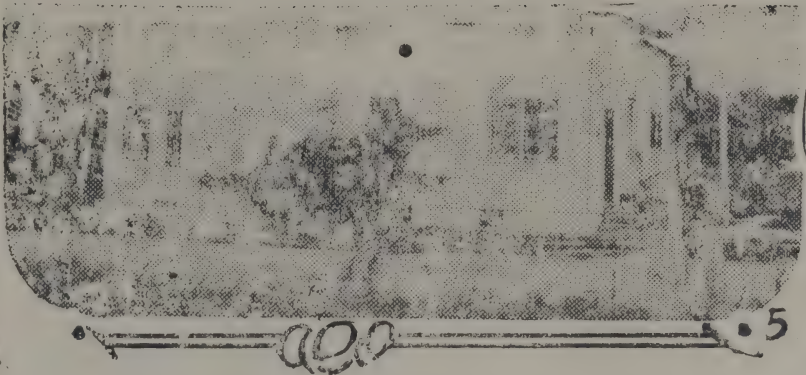
Exchange town parties or guest nights were also arranged by Mr. Brueckel with Alta Vista, Saude and South Jerico. Free ice cream was served to the children, bank nights held and Fiddlers contests were arranged on Saturday night, as also card parties. This activity was well patronized.

#### Jerico Scho Established.

To establish truth was one of the first reasons and the love for writing to have a paper in Jerico. The first issue which appeared in February 1920 and was printed in Elma. Many times the 13 miles from Jerico to Elma was walked, using the railroad tracks from Alta Vista. The paper was issued from Elma for two years and since June 14 it was published under Postal permit. The name Jerico Community Echo was selected because Jerico was too small a town to support a paper, so the name community was added. It was published the first Saturday of every month and the price was 25c for a years subscription, folio size, because of financial difficulties the paper was discontinued June 1921.

In January 1926 the paper was re-established again this time postal permit was secured from New Hampton from August 1926 the paper was printed in Jerico on a small hand press and often times printing took to 3 o'clock in the morning to put the paper out. Since March 1929 a power press was installed and by that time the paper was known all over the United States. Professors gave it credit at Schools of Journalism, professional magazines published articles about the paper as the Editor and Publisher and others and the Des Moines Register, Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, Minneapolis Star published pictures and articles about the paper. We received letters from all over the United States which are on file, from all people any walk of life. More than 1000 copies were published starting with four pages many issues had grown to 50 and more pages at a price of 50c per year Even John Ripley wrote about the Echo.





### Founding Place of the Jerico Community Echo

A hand press was kept busy to 3 o'clock in the morning to get the paper out.

Since the 15th of November 1935 the paper has been published in Waucoma the size was enlarged and the monthly became a weekly retaining its old famous name.

#### Paul Sanderson Builds Residence

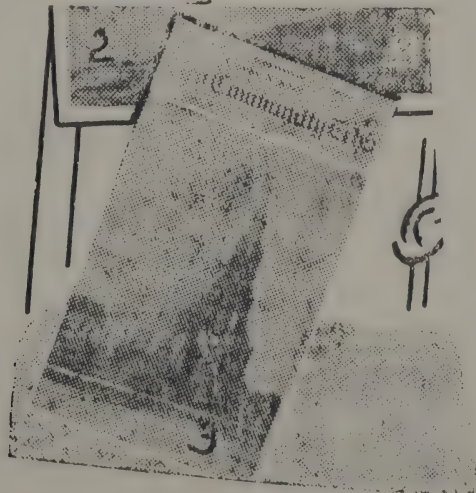
In the summer of 1919 Paul Sanderson built a modern home on his farm in Jerico which is now in possession of Jeff A. Knutson.

#### First Garage 1923

A young man by the name of Scotch

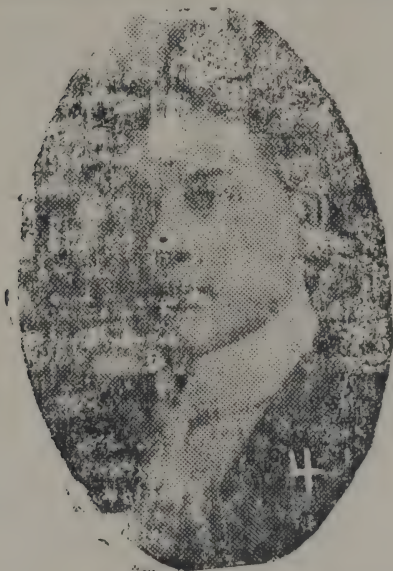
established a garage in Jerico in the old school building which had been used as a blacksmith shop in the early days by Tolaf Johnson right north of the Lincoln House but remained in Jerico only a short while.

In the summer of 1925 Halvor Nelson came from New Hampton and purchased the Mike Whalen Dance Hall and converted it into a garage and residence which is still established there today.









### BILLY BRUECKEL

at the time he established the Jerico Community Echo.

the battle near Verdun in the morning of November, 10, 1918 and was stricken with spinal-meningitis at Camp Dodge, Iowa, where he died April 26, 1919 burial was made in the cemetery at Jerico and later reburial was made in New Hampton.

Edward Collins served in the 88th Infantry Regiment in Camp Dodge from September 5, 1918 to January 27, 1919.

Sylvester Weigel served at Camp Dodge from July 24, 1918 to December 9, 1918.

Ole A. Knutson was in the 350th regiment from September 1917 until June 6, 1919 was in England and Farnce.

John Seery was at Camp John-son Florida from Sept. 5, 1918, until Jan. 10, 1919 in the Quartermaster department.

One of the first boys to return home was Ole A. Anderson, he returned home June 6, 1919, he had served in the 350 Infantry in England and France.

Next was Ernest Forkenstad, discharged June 11, 1919 and served in the 339th machine gun company, was in England and France.

Carl A. Knutson discharged June 11, 1919 served in the 337th machine gun company, served in England and France.

Ole O. Johnson served in the 352nd Infantry discharged from Camp Dodge May 8, 1919.

Ole J. Johnson returned home June 15, 1919 served in the 338th Machine Gun Co., and was in England and France.

John Herman served in England, Canada, France, Luxemburg, Belgium and Germany in the 357th Infantry Regiment, was discharged, June 16, 1919.

John I. Kearns was wounded in



**First Grocery Store Than Tavern** parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Knutson.

In the fall of 1935 Billy Brueckel who had built the Lincoln House left Jerico in which place he had made his home for 18 years and moved to Waucoma, Otto Tjernagel who was a relative to Rev. Tjernagel than stationed here purchased the building from John Wandro of New Hampton for \$700 and he conducted a grocery store there for five years after which he moved to Minn

About 1940 Erick Gust secured a beer permit from the supervisors of Chickasaw County and converted the building into a tavern making possible the sale of beer again in Jerico and the consuming there at the place of purchase after an elapse of 43 years when the last Saloon was closed in Jerico then operated by Mike and John Whalen.

Later Chuch Gleason of New H, purchased the property from Mr. Gust and he was followed by James Collins, Joe Tupy and last by Emil Tonn who made several needed improvements as also the lot was enlarged by additional purchase where formerly the old Blacksmith Shop was standing.

**Mike Weigel Moves House to Jerico**

About 1946 Mike Weigel purchased the Joe Ofsethun House from Oscar Ferkingstad which had been standing on a small farm about one mile south east of Jerico and moved it to the garden lot of the Weigel Store.

**Purchase Commerford House**

In 1939 Ingval Knuson purchased the P. J. Commerford house for his

**buys Nelson House**

In February of 1950 Alvie Elling-nelson and Martin purchased the house which property he had secured from the estate.

**Farm Purchased**

Jeff A. Knutson purchased the Paul Sanderson farm in the fall of 1948. Steve R. Knutson purchased the Andrew Braham farm in 1942 and the Hans Braham farm in 1944.

Bill Sargeant is the owner of the Welch farm and he was the first in making a change in the ownership of the farms located at the limits of Jerico.

**Improvements Made**

In the fall of 1950 the county graded the road from Jerico north with a high grade. This road was graded once before to the bridge  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles north of Jerico 30 years before.

A new grade was put by the Myer Bros. from the pavement and the road straightened, a new bridge was built over Crane Creek by the Montgomery Co. and the two old bridges which had been for so many years the land marks of Jerico were taken down. So time passes on.

**Three Notable Characters**

Jerico was noted for three notable characters, of Pete Johnson, Mike Whalen and Pat Commerford, Pete spent most of his time in Jer-

ico visiting the stores and was a man of a strong and stubborn mind he refused assistance even when needed and when commencing to talk he had the habit of making first three little spits and drove to Jerico in a





single seated buggy. If you would come to the store you would find Pete and Mike and Pat sitting by the stove visiting and everyone of them would have a good chew tobacco in their mouth. It was a long stove where Pat was burning logs for fuel, down their spit went into the ashes. All three had a long life of Jerico history behind them. Mike Whalen the most fleshy of the three knew everybody for miles around and if he did not know he soon would find out all your personally history if once in contact with you. He had the habit in using the sleeves of his coat as a handkerchief and using his

Pat was babied by his wife and their heart was with the people of Jerico. They were lonesome for their children who were living in St. Paul Minn., but he never moved there. The writer was their Sunday dinner guest for several years taking the place of their children in their lonesomeness. Now Pat and Mrs. Pat rest in the cemetery at Reilly Ridge and so does Mike and his sister Mary and Pete blessed this world.

#### \$100 For A Dictionary

Francis Dane who was another leading character at Jerico and community and was a member of Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors was responsible that a \$12 dictionary was bought to decide whether the nameing was called 'spile-driver' or "pile-driver." The board were about to purchase such an article and L. H. Weller called it "pile-driver," and Francis Dane called it "spile-driver." Dane was at once corrected by the erudite gentleman from Bradford Dane at once asserted the correctness of his way of calling it, and ridiculed the idea of it being called "pile-driver." Earnest and eloquent speeches were made, pro and con and to settle the matter the Sheriff was ordered to get a dictionary. A. E. Bigelow was acting as Sheriff and he went out and bought a twelve-doller dictionary and presented it to the board, together with the bill. The cause for which it was ordered was lost sight of in the reflection upon the light in which these representatives of the people would be looked upon in buying such a book for their education. G. A. Hamilton was County Auditor, and had



**Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Commerford**

fleshy hands to impress his speech. He was a good charcter but to change his mind would have been some job. Conversations about horses was his favor. Pat and Mrs. Pat was a great coupie in greater love to each other





Big John and Bill

Big John was a great cook, piano player and could do the work mostly of any woman, he was a swell dancer and light on his feet as a feather. Bill kept the town going for eighteen year, they are in front of Pat's Store wearing the latest selections of hats from his store eagerly watched by the Amble Bros.

made application to have his salary increased one hundred dollars per year, and seeing the obligation he would place the board under him if he helped them out of this unfortunate dilemma, he proposed to take the book off their hands and not have the account of same appear in the record. They promptly accepted the offer and as promptly raised his salary one hundred dollars a year, thus making the taxpayers pay in fact, one hundred dollars for this dictionary.

After the second term of Hanan in the legislature, Francis Dane of Jacksonville became the aspirant for the office of Representative and had carried enough of the township caucuses to give him the nomination, if he carried his own township, which was conceded to him. Their caucus was to be held the night be-

fore the county convention, all unsuspectingly and in full confidence Dane went to the caucus, expecting that as a matter of course that delegates would be selected in his interest. To his surprise he found that McHugh of Lawler, had come into the township and secured the cooperation of some of Dane's neighbors, and by importing men, both Democrats and Republicans, from Stapleton, secured the election of delegates in the interest of McHugh. Of course this took Dane out of the picture. Subsequently the Democrats proposed that they would support Dane in good faith if he would come out as an independent candidate, and as there were many Republicans who felt that the means used to defeat him in his own township, were unjustified, and that they would like to support him, Dane consented. The Democrats appeared to be working







Sunday afternoon on Bill Brueckel's Bowery

in good faith until the last moment when the man who was taking the ballots to Washington township containing the name of Dane, was overtaken and he was induced to return to New Hampton and destroy the ballots first received, and supply their place with McHugh ballots. As he was burning the Dane ballots he exultingly exhibited a hundred dollars he claimed for the job, exclaiming "Here is them only that is to carry North Washington for John McHugh," but refused to tell who gave it to him. There was much interest taken in the campaign and among other things, there was issued a circular, a set of verses in the interest of Dane, of which the following is a copy:

DANISH LYRICS

Come over the Wapsie and Cedar  
Come over the Turkey and Crane  
And rally around our Old Leader,  
And vote for  
HONEST FRANCIS DANE!

Come out from Grove and the  
prairie,

Come out from hill-side and  
plain,  
And though toil-worn with harvest  
and weary,  
Come out for  
OLD HONEST FRANCIS DANE

Come out then, my fine Irish yeoman  
Come out then in sunshine or  
rain,  
Come Yankee aind Norseman and  
German,  
And rally 'round  
HONEST FRANCIS DANE

They say he is lank and ungainly,  
They say he is course in the  
grain,  
But his heart is true, and all vainly,  
They sneer at  
OLD HONEST FRANCIS DANE

He is honest like Abe and as homely,  
And faithful to friends will  
remain,  
And his foes are all false, though  
more comely,  
Then hurrah for  
OLD HONEST FRANCIS DANE





Top row right to left  
Ole A. Knutson, Carl Knutson, Alfred N. Anderson  
Second row  
Henry T. Attleson, Ole Urness, who was killed in service, John C. Johnson  
Third row  
Gordon, Ole Johnson

Special Services were held by the churches in honor of the soldier boys and pictures were generally taken at such gatherings of which the one here reproduced is one,

1985174

### HONEST FRANCIS DANE

He is six feet and upwards in stocking,  
And he stands without blemish

or stain,  
And good thoughts forever are flocking

ing  
Around the kind heart of Old

Dane,  
He has wallowed through snow of

hard winters,  
He has waded through mud with

his train,  
And smash all our timber to splinters

If we turn on Old Honest Francis Dane,  
Money lender, and buyer and seller,

May come with the tricks which  
are vain,

But kid gloves and shoes of prunella,  
Won't win against Honest Francis Dane.

For his hands are all horny with  
labor,

His feet have gone bare o'er the  
plain,

And he loveth and helpeth his neighbor;  
Who shouts for Old Honest Francis Dane,

He soweth the grain that he reapeth,  
And his head is sound as the

grain,  
All tender and true his heart keepeth

This Honest Old Farmer Francis Dane,  
Money lender, and buyer and seller,

He has earned what he's got, and no  
bummer





## CHAPTER II.

## Towns of Jacksonville Township

## Part II.

## Jacksonville

1853

There is no doubt that the founders of Jacksonville were farmers coming from the east states as early as 1852, as Henry Shaffer, Hazzard Green, John Davidson, Hiram Palmer, R. H. Miller, J. Fitzpatrick, Frank Dane, John Conner, S. Shaf., B. B. Orten, W. F. Beatch, J. H. Dickens, John White, Jess Sabin and many others. They were mostly young men who had the education and refinement that pertain to the old communities.

## Naming of Jacksonville

Jacksonville was named by J. H. Dickens in honor of his old home, he having emigrated from Jacksonville, Ill.

A town with six corners, it was an important stopping center and location on the west of the ridge between the Little Turkey and Crane Creek, with an unobstructed view of Crane Creek valley on the west and of the country to the north and east over the Little Turkey. Standing on the hill we see to the south the cabins of John S. Lee and further down is the cabin of Hugh Johnson, John Lynch and Michael Mahoney, still further is the cabin of William Everingham, the Little Turkey like a silver ribbon winds its way along the beautiful elms that fringe its banks and now in full foliage, toss together their lofty plumes. To the north and east George B. Arnold and Walter C. Mitchell have reared their cabins, to the west is the cabin of Owen Gallagher, further west John Hunter, David Kearney and Francis Dane have their roof trees up and must half finished.

Swceping to the west and south are the homes of Thomas McCarten, Hank H. Shaffer, John Davidson, J. E. Fitzpatrick, John Bagley, Tim Bagley, Tim O'Leary and James Sullivan are seen, immediately south where we stop are the homes of Sylvester O'Reilly, Patrick Gorman and Thomas B. Kelly.

## Community Known as Crane Creek

Bradford was the center of the southern faction of the county, and the north having no town in which to meet and organize candidates were forced to canvass among individuals. The north finally contracted on J. C. H. Miller, who lived on Crane Creek, in what is now Jacksonville. Also a Rev. S. M. Prentice, a Baptist minister who used to preach on Crane Creek and Fredericksburg.

## First Greenville, later Jacksonville

The first name of Jacksonville was Greenville in honor of Hazzard Green the man who built the first house. Later the town was surveyed and planned by J. H. Dickens and he changed the name to Jacksonville.

## The First Hotel

Hazzard Green built the first house in Jacksonville in 1853, it was a large hotel which he conducted and located on the old military road from Fort Atkinson. Antedating the railroad, there was a heavy freighting business between McGregor, Fort Atkinson, Jacksonville, Pettybones (later Elma) Osage and into the western counties. Teamsters usually went in gangs for mutual help and company, and nearly every house on the route kept travelers. Of course, these teamsters became acquainted with the peculiarities of every stopping place. The closest market place was McGregor, and provissions were bought there, using the hotels as their stopping and resting places for themselves and their horses or oxen



The hotel accommodations of those days were not very commodious and no one could fully appreciate the old saying that "an omnibus would always hold one more," until after being a guest in a new country hotel. Generally the upper story—mostly a half story was all in one room and this was called the "School Section," taking its name from its figurative resemblance to the government school section, which was number sixteen, these rooms being supposed to contain sixteen beds. In each of these rooms there was made room on the floor. Tables and even the stove was used to make a bed on. These houses were only sided up and not plastered and it has happened that people had their finger frozen while in bed.

#### AMERICAN HOTEL

The hotel building, in fact the first house which was built in Jacksonville by Hazzard Green in 1853 was torn down in 1857 and a new hotel was built by C. Bolten, he named the new hotel the American Hotel.

#### FIRST STORE

At the same time Allen and Wilkenson of North McGregor which is now Marquette built the first store in Jacksonville. It was a small board shanty, 14x20 hurriedly constructed with no plaster or other provisions to withstand the wintry weather and in 1856 when it was extremely cold the clerk in the store had to wear a big heavy overcoat and overshoes in order to be reasonable comfortable.

#### BLACKSMITH SHOP

In the year 1856 a blacksmith shop was opened and in the same year Julius P. North started a hardware and tin shop.

#### FIRST SAW MILL

In 1857 an old saw located between

the farm of Daniel R. Kerley and Patrick Kearns.

#### FIRST NEWSPAPER

The first newspaper published in Chickasaw county was printed in Jacksonville. Isaac Watson. He names his paper Chickasaw County Republican. It was a small sheet printed by hand.

Isaac Watson was a square built middle aged man, and came to Iowa from Missouri, where he had been engaged in editing a paper. He was reserve, quiet, gentleman, with a natural instinct of a newspaper man. He published a paper that the most fastidious could not object to introduce into his family.

The first issue of the paper appeared the first Wednesday of May 1858 finding that Watson would not be able to continue the publication of the Republican, on the 18th day of December 1857, the "Chickasaw County Republican Association was formed, and the following amount of stock was subscribed: F. D. Bosworth, \$10.; D. A. Babcock, \$10; J. H. Powers, \$10; W. E. Beach, \$10; J. Cole, \$200 (turning in 40 acres of land to make the payment); H. H. Brakeman, \$60. G. W. Howard, \$10; J. P. North, \$30; Little & Wood, \$50; A. Vaughn, \$20; and Cruver, \$20. Hazzard Green was elected President of the association and J. H. Powers Secretary. Walter E. Beach was chosen editor, to be assisted by whoever would be willing to contribute under his censorship. Earl, one of Beach's boys about 13 years old had learned to set type and by walking over and working the press at night the paper was issued so for several months, but the burden was too heavy, and the paper died.

Before this Watson fighting the the wolf from the door, there was and with a population largely engaged in making new homes and fighting





little chance to make a newspaper self-supporting, so after a few months of publishing returned to Missouri, where at the breaking out of the Rebellion he espoused the union side, and was killed by bush-whackers. Strong in his convictions as was shown by his being a Republican in Missouri before the war, he took aggressive ground in favor of a united country and was sacrificed upon her altar, this way died the first editor of Chickasaw County of the great town of hope, Jacksonville of which today is only six corners left.

#### SALOON TIME

Charley Reilly who first worked behind a plow found that he could make better money running a saloon. Old pioneers often told of the great times they used to have in Jacksonville, the town which was located on the old Military road from McGregor and Indians used to stop at the saloon making good company for the old settlers.

#### CONVENTION AT TOWN

The first partisan convention held in the county was in Jacksonville in June 1837, when the Republican party was organized. Gideon Gardner, F. D. Bosworth and J. H. Powers and David Edwards all of New Hampton met there when W. E. Beach was elected chairman and J. H. Powers secretary. An executive committee was formed of one from each township and Hazard Green of Jacksonville was chosen chairman of the central committee.

#### Notable Citizens

The principal citizens of Jacksonville were W. E. Beach, Hazard Green, J. H. Dickens, Charles Fitch, Allen Vaughn, J. P. North, J. Cole, H. H. Brakeman, M. L. Palmer and

Frank Cruver.

#### Hazard Green

Of the most important citizens of Jacksonville were Dickens and Green Hazard Green who was Jacksonville first settler and who conducted a hotel in a log house, and being on the old military road from Fort Atkinson to Osage, was full customers. He was an ardent Baptist and preached sometimes in spite Jacksonville never built a church. He was a man of sterling integrity, and although of limited educational accomplishments his influence among the new settlers was second to none. Of medium height, dark complexion and a full face adorned with a large mouth that spread across his face when he smiled and accustomed to the privations of a new country, he was a true type of a successful pioneer. Like most men who have kept to the front as settlements moved westward he had received local political honors, and he always pointed out the practicability of any measure that he was advocating by declaring, That's the way we did in Illinois when I was a member of the Board of Supervisors.

#### W. E. Beach

W. E. Beach as living in a shell of a frame house, and was an enthusiast as to the future of the town. He had lithographed plat of the town of Jacksonville, Illinois, after which they had patterned and he pointed out where churches, school houses and other public buildings were to be located and the probable route of the railroad that would pass through from the east to west. He was well acquainted with many things also well informed, genial, when in good humor, inscribe under small provocation, and a perfect pattern of hon



esty and served two terms as Recorder of the county. He had been a member of the House of Representatives in the State from which he came, and was well informed as to passing political events. Anyone familiar with his besetting weakness could tell at once when he had been annoyed and if they took council of prudence, they left him alone at such times. This petulance, under slight provocations was the bane of his life and he often sat in sackcloth and ashes, as he recalled and regretted what he had said to others. Unwilling to do, or even think a wrong to others, people learned to overlook this weakness, and measure him for his true worth.

#### J. H. Dickens

J. H. Dickens had come from Jacksonville, Illinois, and the town of Jacksonville was platted and named after that town. Dickens was a Methodist minister and had considerable of the gift of eloquence and commenced gathering a congregation to which he preached a part of the time. he was by nature disputant and to battle for his creed was to him meat and drink and seldom a visitor left him without first having received a printed sermon that had been prepared by him, with the assurance that if it was read with care he would be convinced.

#### Charles Fitch

Charles Fitch was a good-natured overgrown boy and was not calculated to make a very large mark in the world, but he was a very good school teacher. Teaching the town school and received the honor of being elected County Surveyor.

#### J. Cole

J. Cole was the son-in-law of J.

H. Dickens, also taught school and was the echo of his father-in-law

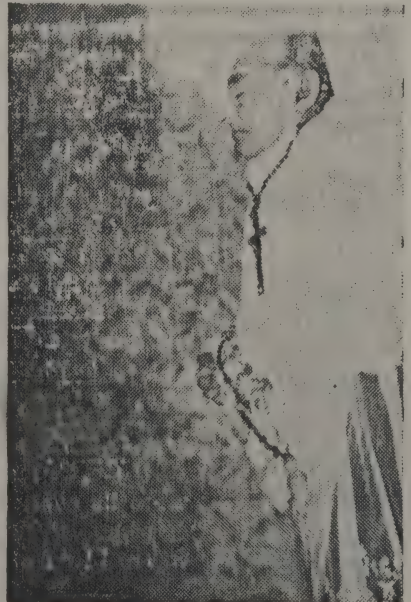
#### Julius P. North

Julius P. North was a young unmarried man, a tinner by trade, and divided his time between his business and looking after his interests with her who subsequently became his estimable wife.



#### Dr. V. Koren

Missionary Minister for the Luth. when Jacksonville was in its prime.



#### Father Henry McCullough

Pioneer Priest at the time of Jacksonville





## CONVENTION SPEECHES

At that convention when the Republican Party of Chickasaw County was organized at Jacksonville the speakers were W. E. Beach, Gideon Gardner, Hazard Green and J. H. Powers. In the remarks in the following election.

Jacksonville was a prospective aspirant for the county seat and Rey, J. H. Dickens was the principal manager of her interest,

## Seat to Jacksonville

At the next election the southern candidates of the county were elected thanks to the treachery of Jacksonville. This was undoubtedly due to the figuring of the Rey, J. H. Dickens to bring out Jacksonville as a rival for the county seat. The Bradford men used the argument that if it was to go north, it ought to be in a place that was dry enough to allow of the building of a town, and as New Hampton as so wet that it would be impossible to build anywhere only on a little knol, it ought to go to Jacksonville, and thus practiced upon the credulity of its election Jacksonville could be most easily beaten, beside it would divide the north.

1865

D. R. Kirby and John Lynch erected a store and James McCone and Badger Murray conducted a blacksmith shop. One of the latest blacksmiths of Jacksonville was Mr. Slindee.

## POSTOFFICE

A Postoffice was also located in Jacksonville and mail was delivered a few times during the week from McGregor. Mr. Carlson as the Postmaster.

## COFFIN MADE

During that time a fleshy woman died and as there was no lumber out of which to make a coffin except some poplar boards that had been sawed out of poles, and were not edged. Post were set up and then sided up like the siding of a house, and a pitched roof for a cover. Wood coal was used to color the coffin and beeswax was used as a varnish.

## Impassable Roads

During the summer of 1857 the roads were almost impassable and large drags had to be built to pull wagons on it over bad places with teams of eight yoke of oxen.

## Plowing Virgin Soil

Breaking teams with plows carrying beams sixteen feet long, eight inches square at their largest places and drawn by eight to ten yoke of oxen. The furrow turned was from twenty-eight to thirty-two inches wide and the forward end of the plow beam rested on a pair of trucks the wheel running in the furrow being a little the largest, the beam being raised and lowered with a lever the rear end of which was set and held in place by a pin running through the lever and two uprights at the rear end of the beam. The thickness of the furrow could be controlled by this lever and it varied from two inches on smooth prairie to such depth as the conformation of character of the ground demanded.

In approaching a grove of small timber, no halt was made, but the lead oxen, which were generally selected as being especially adapted to this service, would stride the young growth and bend them down, and if too large they would be lopped with an ax, the plow would be let down so as to cut deeper, and under the whip, every ox would settle himself



for a pull, some time poplar trees four inches in diameter go down like grass. Of course, only small oaks could undergo this treatment, for they have a very firm and hard tap root and it would be necessary to grub them before breaking. Hazel brush that was as high to hide the team from view was not considered an obstruction and was rolled under as readily as prairie grass.

#### Scaling Timber

There were many stories about adventures in stealing timber. There was living east of Jacksonville a Mr. H. W. who had a fine piece of timber, and the boys laid plans to secure a part of it.

Going to the owner in confidence they told him that they knew where they could get some fine logs, but as they had no team, they could not avail themselves of their knowledge. They proposed to cut the logs and help him load, if he would draw to the halves. He readily assented, and they took him around through the brush so that he did not know his whereabouts, and for two days he hauled logs. On Sunday he thought he would go out and look after his own timber, when to his surprise he found that he had been stealing off his own land.

#### 4th July Celebration in Jacksonville

At the 4th July celebration of 1857 many came walking and it was the only celebration in the county. The speaker of the day was Rev. J. H. Dickens, supplemented by remarks and songs and the song that appeared to give the most satisfaction was one which ran, "The cars are coming through this town, I know and this was responded by "No north, no south but all citizens of one county, Green, the founder of Jacksonville may his enterprise be successful and

his memory as green as his name" This thought brought out a speech from Hazard Green, and he glowingly pictured the cars running through town, and exulted in the prospect of hearing the steam whistle in a few months. This called for the repetition of the song "The Cars Are Coming Through This Town, I Know."

The gatherings of the sparsely settled population could not help but make a joyous time, for it was not often that these old settlers met and broke the loneliness of their hard lives as they were struggling to make homes. Jacob Clason led the music, and he had brought a little wheezy melodeon, and the pride with which he displayed it was equal to that of any modern Miss when she receives her first piano.

#### A Hurried Marriage

One time a couple came to J. H. Powers and desired a marriage license, which was issued to them. They also desired to be married by him which he had no authority to do but he informed them that he would take them to judge Bailey. When they arrived about one mile from the home of the judge they found him loading hay, when he was told these young people have a little business with you. Want to get married, don't they To this he was told that they did. At no time had the judge stopped work, and as he placed another fork of hay and commenced treading it down. He swung around and asked them if they wanted to get married. They nodded an affirmative and without stopping his work, the judge said, "All right drive on, you are husband and wife, Powers, make out the papers "which was obeyed.

#### Hungry Children

M. C. Roby who was not possessed with many of this world's good, but he had a large family of children





and during the inter of 1857-58 he found that it was hard work to keep the wolf from the door.

At one time he found himself without a mouthful to eat in his house and he started out to find something. When night came he did not come and the little ones were crying for something to eat. The house was cold and the mother decided to put them to bed to keep them warm, but they cried for food, and the mother had to whip them to make them go to bed.

In the meantime, Roby had secured half a bushel of corn, and taking it to David Edwards "Little Giant" Mill, and hitching on an old stag, he led him around until the corn was ground, and then taken on his back and carried home. When he got home they made mush and the children called up and made happy with a good meal. Roby used to say that he could hardly keep the tears back when he went to take up his little girl and found the tears still standing on her face where she had cried herself to sleep because she was hungry.

#### Two Days Walk For Bu. la)

Between Lee's and Jacksonville were Noel Gages on the east bank of Little Turkey, A. M. Snider and Hugh Johnston on the hill west of Little Turkey, Wm Everingham in the timber, and Dan Kirby on the east bank of Crane Creek. Sylvester Reiley was living on section seven, Terance Commertord on section five, Owen Galigan on section eight, and Amos J. Smith on the southeast corner of section six, in township ninety six, range eleven.

There was a Catholic church (St. Ignatius Church) on the northwest corner of section eight (Reily Ridge) it being the first place of worship

erected in the county. A. J. Smith lived about forty rods northwest from the church, and was every where known as "Yankee Smith," and was a very strong Catholic and appeared to have care of the church building.

A catholic family living in Bradford, one of their children dying and there being no other consecrated ground in the country, they took the child on a sheet which was attached to two poles, like a stretcher and carried the same the whole twenty-seven miles on foot. It took them two days to go, and a little less to return. As they laid the dead body on the ground hile they rested. It was a pathetic scene as I had ever seen. I must say that outside of that church I never have seen such devotion to the traditions of the church, so reported Mr. Powers of New Hampton who was a non catholic.

#### Music by Mrs. H. H. Shaffer

Up "Crane Creek" we find J. C. H. Miller, John and H. H. Shaffer, the three Palmer brothers and Langdon. On approaching the loghouse of H. H. Shaffer the sound of music was heard and at standing at the open door we saw Mrs. Shaffer playing on the violin, holding the instrument in her lap with the neck upward near the shoulder. The novelty of the thing, added to the sweetness of the music, was only equalled by the surprise of the performer when she found that she had an audience. Her husband was elected County Surveyor and gathered a large property which he left to his wife and surviving children. (Later back in the history we will return to the Shaffers.

#### Jacksonville Blizzard

On the evening of the thirteenth day of February, 1867, E. T. Runion



was on his way home from a trip to the east part of the county, and when he came to the house of W. A. Beach about a half mile east of old Jacksonville, he called to see his daughter, who had married Frank Weed, a step-son of Beach, leaving his team standing in the road. His daughter Hannah, decided to go home with him and handing her father a bed quilt to be used as a wrap, they started for the team. Just as they started the team started also, and thinking that they would overtake it in a few minutes they followed. When they had passed beyond the old Wolf place at the top of the hill it was open prairie to New Hampton. With the team in sight they followed expecting to overtake it at once. Not more than a quarter of a mile after striking the prairie, they were struck by a blizzard, and the team disappeared from view, but they pressed on as fast as possible, thinking that they would overtake it soon. Coming to two roads, the team took the right hand one and they the left it being a wood road that led much too far south, and of course all prospects of overtaking the team disappeared. The storm was blinding and they soon lost the road amid the drifts. Exhausted, Hannah could not walk any further, and as the storm and darkness prevented seeing any object they camped for the night. Runion wrapping the girl with the bed quilt and kicking the snow around her to keep her from freezing. Runion stamped and walked around her through the night, to keep himself from freezing and to scare away the wolves that were howling around.

When morning came he aroused his daughter for the purpose of gaining habitation, but found that her feet and legs were frozen nearly to her knees, and that she could only hobble a little with his aid. As the

storm was still raging he became convinced that he alone could not succeed.

#### Between Ice and Water

And he decided to protect her as well as he could and go for help. Stamping the snow to get a place to protect her, he broke through the ice that had been formed by the water when it was high, and then receded, leaving a hollow cavity between the upper ice and the bed of the creek. Into this he put the girl, and crowding her down after the bed quilt, he started for help. He finally reached Vincents one mile east of New Hampton, with his hands, face and ears frozen. As soon as they could thaw him out, they took a team and went for the girl. To their dismay the place could not be found and after hunting the rest of the day they returned to Vincens. The next morning the alarm was given and the entire male population of New Hampton started on the search. About 10 o'clock one of the searchers broke through where she was, and to the surprise of all she was alive. She was taken to the house of Mr. Jolly, where she received medical aid. As it subsequently appeared, when she was put under the ice her frozen foot broke through the ice into the water. Not knowing it, she left them there until the cold water extracted the frost. She was during this time in a semi-conscious state amusing herself watching the fishes and hearing the searchers calling her sleeping during the night.

She suffered little from the exposure, only losing part of two toes.

#### Twenty-five Dollar Votes

Probably the first demand of any significance upon the managers of a party came from a man that demanded twenty-five dollars for his





influence in controlling the Norwegian vote of the northeast part of the county. Under the stress of the occasion, as party success appeared doubtful, the committee weakly yielded and paid the sum demanded. It appeared to have accomplished its object and the voters cast their suffrages as desired, but it is very doubtful if it was caused by the influence of the hired party, for experience has shown that no class of people are more moved from principle than our Scandinavian citizens. At the next election the committee found themselves confronted with the same proposition, and for three consecutive years the twenty-five dollars was paid.

### Speaking of Cold

Speaking of cold, in those days Mr. Powers said "After I was able to own a horse, I always took the precaution to take candles and matches, so that if overtaken by a blizzard and forced to camp out, I could turn my sleigh over and keep from freezing by burning the candles under the sleigh. Subsequently I made the discovery that by taking my dog into the sleigh his with the robe, his breath and body would soon warm me, and by this means I have been saved much suffering. The precaution was always taken to take along paper and pencil and handkerchiefs so that if a storm forced the releasing of the horse, to be able to tie a message to the horse, telling where I could be found, thus having it act as a guide to a rescuing party.

### Has Tooth Pulled

George Arnold of Utica township came to the office of Mr. Powers and wanted two teeth extracted, remarking that every one that had tried had failed, I latched on, and if you ever

heard the deepsounding bay of the bloodhounds when he sighted his game, you have a faint idea of the sound that followed, but the tooth came out, and so did a splinter of the bone to which it was attached. About six weeks afterward I met him on the prairie between his house and New Oregon, with a shawl over his head. On accosting him he said that I had hurt him so that he had been up to have a doctor draw his other tooth and then pathetically added, "The darned fool pulled out more of the jaw bone than you did."

### No Church?

There never was a church built in Jacksonville may be to the fact that the town was only short lived, church services were held by Rev. J. H. Dickens who was a Methodist minister and Hazard Green who was a Baptist doing also some of the preaching at times most likely in the school house. Missions were held at different times in tents for the people of Jacksonville who had their burying ground one half mile south of Jacksonville.

### Railroad Comes

From 1853 to 1869 Jacksonville was quite a live and thrifty town and it promised to be one of the most important business centers, as a number of town lots were sold and many residences were erected. There was everything in Jacksonville to make a well established town. But in 1869 when the railroad was built through that section and left Jacksonville some distance to their right of way the fate of the town was sealed. The merchants who had started business in Jacksonville removed to Lawler and other business enterprises closed up.

Jacksonville is now but a memory, the hopes of Dickens and Green have



not been realized. Jacksonville is a thing of the past and its erector, Mr. Hazard Green sleeps the eternal sleep in the little cemetery south of the old town site.

### III.

#### Nansen

In the year 1690, a creamery was organized by the following farmers: Fred D. Markel, A. H. Markel, Joseph Sewl, Ed Sewl, Peter Konzen, Martin Dewell, Bill Mantsky, Ole Overboe and John Gordon.

The creamery was located one half mile east and four miles south of Jerico and was a small frame building.

#### Store Built

There was a store erected at the same time the creamery was built, this store was erected and owned by Mr. Sinclair, a nephew of Mr. Francis Dane. Mr. Sinclair was bachelor and had his dry goods and groceries shipped from New Hampton and later he sold his store to Ed Attleson.

#### Naming of Nansen

A postoffice was established in 1890 and Francis Dane the great benefactor of this section gave it the name of Nansen. Mail was delivered from Lawler. Mr. Sinclair was the first Postmaster and Ed Attleson was the second.

1903

In the spring of 1903 when a new creamery was erected at Jerico the fate of Nansen was sealed. The creamery at Nansen was closed and the store discontinued business. The buildings at Nansen was purchased by Mr. Fred Sewl who moved them to his farm. Nansen is now like Jacksonville, only a memory.

### CHAPTER III.

Churches of Jacksonville Township

#### The St. Ignatius Church

1856

The first house of worship built

in Chickasaw County was at Reilly Ridge when in 1856, Irish settlers built St. Ignatius Church.

There were several Catholic families residing northeast of the town of Jacksonville and it was almost impossible for them to attend to their religious duties and obligations, hence the ardent desire for a church in their locality. This was a very difficult task as the old settlers were very poor, however, they succeeded and a beautiful church was erected at Reilly Ridge, the place so named after the Reilly's living there.

Sylvester Reilly and Terrance Commerford each donated 15 acres of and for the purpose of erecting a church. Other founders of the congregation were Patrick Gorman, T. B. Kelly, Owen Galligan, Gerny Fitzpatrick, Theo. O'Leary, Wm. Galligan, Sylvester Reilly and Terrance Commerford. It was a frame building neatly constructed. The following each gave \$10 for the building: Sylvester Reilly, D. R. Kirby, Thomas B. Kelly, Patrick Gorman, Terrance Commerford, Walter Mitchell, Owen Galligan, Jeramiah Fitzpatrick, David Kearney, and Patrick Kirby. \$10 dollars was a very big sum of money at the time.



Rev. Finstat

One of the most likeable minister's that served the people of Crane Creek Church.





1857

In August of the year 18857 the first church, a modest slab structure was completed and the emblem of man's redemption was raised above the little church of St. Ignatius. Amos Smith raised the cross the sign of The Redeemer and proclaimed the facto the members present. Mr. Smith's wif had charge of the Altar linen for forty years and her only earthly reward was to kneel and pray, knowing that above in the tabernacle in the Golden Chalice was the Redeemer of mankind waiting to grant her a reward far above early things. She and her husband are now sleeping the last happy sleep in the church yard of Reilly Ridge.

#### First Parish Members

The first members of the parish were: Owen Galligan and his wife, Rose; Thos. B. Kelly and Celia his wife; John Clarken and Kote his wife; Patrick Greene and Anna his wife; Wm. Bennet and Jane his wife; Hugh Reed and Anna hiswife; John Lynch and Bridget his wife; Mathiew Smith and Anna his wife; Terrence Commerford and Mary his wife; Owen Galligan and his wife Mary; Patrick Gorman and Ellen his wife; Jeremiah Fitzpatrick and Kate his wife; James Griffin and Margaret, Micheal Mahoney and his wife Mary; Daniel R. Kirby and Ellen his wife; Amos Smith and Mary his wife; Walter Mitchell and Rose Ann Robelin his wife; William Galligan and Anna his wife; Thomas McCarten and Margaret his wife; David Kearney and Sarah his wife; Thomas Whaen and Mary Ann his wife; Francis McGurk and Rose Ann his wife; Richard McDonald; Thomas Smith and Rose his wife; Timothy Leary and Mary his wife; Thomas Welch and his wife

John Hunter and Kate his wife; John Hilian and Mary his wife; Patrick Kearns and Eliza his wife; James Sullivan and Catherine his wife; William Clinch; Mary Clinch; John Clinch; James Clinch and wife; James Cannon and wife; Micheal Connery and wife, Denis Brophy; James Grimes; William Grimes and Ellen his wife; Micheal Campfield and Ellen his wife; Catherine Foley and her son John; James Kelley and Rose his wife; John Melroy and Mary his wife, Terrence Reilly; Hugh Reilly and Rose his wife; Terrence McAloon and Mary his wife; James Egan and Catherine his wife; Patrick Connell and Ellen his wife; John Cronin and Mary his wife; Frank Craig and Mary Jane his wife. There were about 110 persons present as members by the first dedication of the church and names listed above the reader will find now in New Hampton, Lawler, Lourdes, Cresco, Jerico and Alta Vista.

#### The Old Settlers

The old settlers dressed in plain homespun. There was not a sprig wagon in the settlement. The settlers had honest harts and willing hands, judging from what we see today about us "they built better than they knew they suffered great hardships and privations, they came to this land for freedom and the ambition to become owners of land. A bond of sympathy existed among them.

#### Commerford Walks to McGregor

A woman in the Reilly Settlement was sick. She called for a cup of tea and there was none. Terrance Commerford whose children are well remembered in the Jerico community and whos grandchildren are living in St. Paul, Minn., without a word, donned his coat and walked to



McGregor, a distance of sixty miles and procured it.

#### McDonnell's Sacrifice

Logs had to be procured for building homes and no log chains of iron wedges were in the possession of the people. Richard McDonnell heard of a foundry at Decorah where they could be had, and on a December day in 1856 ventured forth on the perilous journey. He was an honest and courageous soul. He crossed the Turkey river at about where Andrew Winters now lives and took his way over the Spillville prairie, and at a point near where Conover now is, he struck the creek and followed eastward because he knew Decorah was situated at the junction of this stream and the Upper Iowa River. He made the journey in safety and procured the log chains and two wedges. On his return trip he overtaken by stinging and blinding snowstorm and was frozen severely and suffered from the effects of those hardships to the day of his death.

#### A Look of 1858

It is nearly a hundred years since the first settlers came to what is known now as Reilly Ridge. Times have changed and if those old settlers would come back today they would not recognize the country. The splendid farms were only patches here and there surrounding the cabins of the pioneers. There was not a frame house in Utica township. In fact Utica Township was not known then but Utica and Jacksonville township where one and were known as Obispo and was so named by "Yankee Smith" for his patron Saint, St. Obispo. In 1858 the name was changed to Jacksonville and Utica. Jacksonville Township was named by J. H. Dickens in honor of

his old home town, he having emigrated from Jacksonville, Ill. Utica was named by Hugh Johnston, after his old home in Venango County, Penn. At that time Deer roamed in herds over prairies and through glens. No plow broke the virgin soil from the Little Turkey to Spillville. The old military road from Fort Atkinson wound its way across Crane Creek where Daniel Kirby lived, west past Jacksonville, then a frontier tavern, to Pettibone which was located one mile of the present Eima north and then to Osage. The crack of the stage drivers whip is heard along the old military road. Long lines of canvas covered wagons still wend their way westward. The harvest was bountiful in the year 1858 and the harvest has been gathered. The essential elements of life are locked in the sheaves of golden grain that are ready for the threshing. The patches of corn around the cabins wave their tasseled plumes and store up and invite the elements.

#### Naming of Reilly Ridge

The settlement was called Reilly Ridge in honor of Sylvester Reilly and his good wife. Mrs. Reilly was related to many of the settlers and the door of their cabin, which was located not very far from the church stood wide open to the tired and weary. They were noted for their open-handed hospitality and everyone was made to feel a welcome.

#### Settlers of 1856

Settlers who came to this community in 1856 were Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Reilly, Andrew Winters, Joseph Trout, John and Patrick Carlson. They proved their worth and by dint of energy and industry each acquired a comfortable competence.





### George Arnold Built Church

There were others who lived in this settlement who were not members of Reilly Ridge congregation that deserve a tribute. George Arnold built the church and the carpenter work was honestly done. Wm Everingham though not a member of the church was liberal and his wife, Betty, was beloved by all. Francis Dane was a friend to the members of the congregation. He had moved to this community from Vermont in 1854. He sold seed wheat to the settlers and took their word as their only bond. Francis Dane was of revolutionary stock and his grandfather was a revolutionary soldier who woke to the hoof beats of Stark's galloping horse when the alarm of April 19, 1775 was sounded and when the minute men to its revallie awoke. He was honest and his character was as strong as the granite mountains of the native state

### First Burial Place in North Iowa

For years St. Ignatius Cemetery was the only consecrated ground north of Dubuque. We notice an incident of a pathetic burial that took place in this cemetery 94 years ago. A Catholic family lived south of Bassett having moved there in the year 1858. One of the little girls of the family was taken sick and died and the father and mother wanted the child buried in consecrated ground. To the south east was Dubuque some eighty miles away and to the north west was St. Ignatius cemetery forty three miles. Two uncles of the child constructed a stretcher out of two sapplings and placed the little body in a sheet on the stretcher and started across country on foot. On the first day they reached a point midway be-

tween New Hampton and Fredericksburg and at dawn of the second day they took up the weary quest and just as the sun was sinking they reached the home of Amos Smith.

### COFFIN MADE

Amos Smith called Sylvester Reilly, Terrance Commerford and other members of the parish and a rude box was procured and the little body was laid to rest in consecrated ground where her dust rest today. No priest was present but the sturdy sons of Erin knelt in prayer, the cold wind of the dying autumn sang the Requiem and the angelic hosts winged a Benediction from the great white throne.

### BAPTISM

The average number of children baptised in a year is not known from the beginning of the congregation, there are records on hand from the year 1869 and up to the present time. From 1869 up to 1920, 459 children have been baptized. The show as high as 25 being baptised in number in years varies. Records one year and as low as two up until the year 1900 when 16 children were baptized and that number has been close in line for the following years.

### MARRIAGE

The first marriage was performed by Father Decailly at Thomas McCartens when Catherine Sullivan was married to Francis Clarken.

### BURIAL

The first burial was that of Mrs. Duffy in 1856. Mrs. Duffy was the mother of Mrs. Wm Clarken. There were no records kept for many years of burials at Reilly Ridge.

### NEW CHURCH



In the year 1899 a new church was erected to replace the old one which had served the congregation for so many years. The new structure was erected at a cost of \$12,000. It was a most beautiful building and a document of God's praise in the country. The finishing of the inside of the church was all in stucco. The windows were expensive works of art and gifts from members of the congregation, and represented the lives of the saints.

#### GOLDEN JUBILEE

On Wednesday, August 21, 1907 the Golden Jubilee anniversary was observed. The services began in the morning with in celebration of a Solemn High Mass with Rev. Father O'Donnell of Hazelton as celebrant, Father Gallahane of Oelwein, deacon; Father E. O'Donnell of St. Paul sub-deacon; Very Rev. M. Meagher of Akeley, Master of Ceremonies. Following the mass Rev. Father Akeley of Sumner delivered an eloquent and appropriate sermon. Services at the church were followed by picnic festivities in the T. S. Reilly grove near the church. A historic spot in the parish, the old homestead of Sylvester and Bridget Reilly, in whose honor the settlement was named and at whose log cabin the parish was organized.

A great feast had been prepared by the ladies of the parish and during the day more than 2,000 people were fed and participated in the happy occasion. During the afternoon, Mr. D. E. Kelly of Valpariso, Ind. gave a historical address and the evening was spent by the young people in dancing and merrymaking.

#### Church Destroyed by Fire

In August 1910 the beautiful structure of which all the members of the congregation were so proud became

a victim of fire, nothing could be saved and no one knows up to this day how the fire originated.

#### THIRD CHURCH BUILT

In the fall of the same year the third church, a minor imitation of the second one was started and in the spring of 1911 it was finished at a cost of \$10,000. The beautiful colored windows were replaced.

#### CHANGING OF NAME

At the consecration of the third church the name was changed from St. Ignatius Church to Sacred Heart Church which name remains today.

#### PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

The Priests of Reilly Ridge Parish were residing Priests of St. Rose parish about four miles of Waucoma. They served Reilly Ridge as a mission as a stone parsonage was built at St. Rose by Father McCollough the second mentioned Priest of Reilly Ridge.





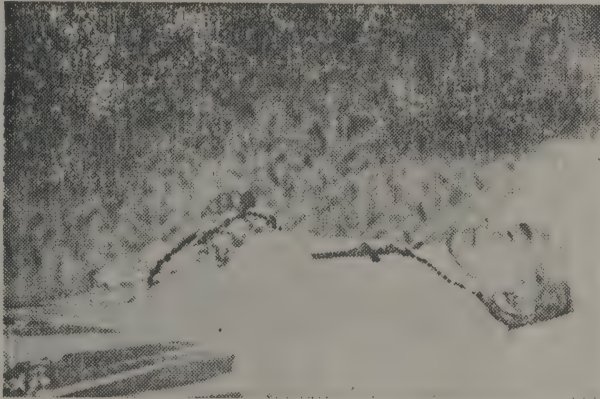


**Father Louis Decailly**

1854-1864

Father Louis Decailly was a pioneer priest traveling from settlement to another attending to the settlers spiritual needs. He was a close friend and relative of Bishop Loras,

first Bishop of Dubuque and said mass in the Sylvester Reilly Cabin, he also performed the first marriage in the Thomas McCarten cabin uniting Catherine Sullivan to Francis Clarken. He also attended to the first burial of Mrs. Duffy in 1856.



**Father Henry McCollough**

1864-1867

The second priest to serve St. Ignatius Church was Father Henry McCollough he died when he was about ninety years old at the home of his nephew, Father McCollough at Dorchester, Iowa on August 1, 1891. The remains were brought to Waukon by a large funeral procession, and were sent for burial to Larchill, County Derry, Ireland, his native place.



**Father Patrick McGinness**

--Served during the Civil War days.

Father Harrison kept a better church record and had missions at West Union, Fayette, Pinhook and New Hampton. His mother died at St. Rose and is buried there, he entertained many neighboring priests at his home.

**Father Patrick Marelly**

1872-1876

Father Farelly organized Mt. Car-

**Father P. F. Harrison**

1867-1872





**Father Patrick Fareilly**  
1872-1876

mel parish at Lawler when the rail road came to that town. Later he was transferred to Holy Cross, Sheldon, Carroll and Emmetsburg and made a Monsignor February 17, 1921. He died at Emmetsburg September, 1924 and burial was made at Denison.

**Father Michael Lynch**  
1876-1877

Father Lynch was only a short time as pastor he died at St. Rose in the spring of 1877 and burial was made at Holy Cross.

Father Quirk built a new church at St. Rose and had a parochial school organized.

**Father R. A. Byrnes**  
In the intervening time Father R. A. Byrnes of Lawler attended to the spiritual needs until the coming of Father McMahon.

**Father McMahon**  
1880-1881

Father McMahon had permanent charge while he was stationed at West Union he also had charge of St. Rose Christian Prairie, southeast of Fredericksburg. Father McMahon was Prof. at St. Joseph's College, Dubuque and held the parish at Waverly. He died at an early age of 35 at Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, July 3, 1889.



**Father M. J. Quirk**  
1877-1879

**Father M. J. Hennessey**  
1880-1882

Father Hennessey built a new modern parsonage at St. Rose and the first vestments, sanctuary supplies and organ used for Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament were purchased by him, and it was he who first used this religious service at St. Rose.

**Rev. J. A. Reilly**  
1882-1884

Priest from St. Rose had always served Reilly Ridge until to the coming of Father Reilly who seemed to be the first priest who specially was assigned to Reilly Ridge.





Father M. J. Hennessey

1878-1880

Father Hennessey remained only two years but during that time he was very active. He built a new parsonage at St. Rose see page 55 and the first vestments, sanctuary supplies and organ used for Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament were purchased by him, and it was he who first used this religious service at St. Rose.

Father J. T. O'Reilly

1880-1882

Father O'Reilly remained only two years. Father O'Reilly seems to have been the first priest who was specially assigned to Reilly Ridge

Father D. W. Murphy

1882-1884

Father Murphy was the second assigned Reilly Ridge pastor but died a short time later and Reilly Ridge was served again from St. Rose and continued so until 1900

Father John Hennessey

1884-1889

Father Hennessey came to Reilly Ridge the second time after the death of Father Murphy. In his declining years he returned to Ireland where he died in 1939.

Father Patrick O'Reilly

1889-1898

Father O'Reilly was ordained in Ireland for the Dubuque diocese, it was here his first assignment, he was a quiet and peace loving person who

was well contended with the rural surroundings.



Father Patrick O'Reilly

1889-1898

Father Martin Hogan

1898-1900

Father Hogan was the last pastor who served Reilly Ridge from St. Rose as a new parish was established in Waucoma and a new parish was soon organized in Jerico.

Father Francis Wrenn

1900-1901

Father Wrenn was the third residing pastor of Reilly Ridge who was followed by Father Hassett.

Father J. Hassett

1901-1906

Father Hassett was the fourth residing pastor who remained six years in serving the parish.





### ST. ROSE PARISH

From this parish near Waucome Reilly Ridge was serviced for 46 years until 1900. St. Rose church was dismantled in 1915

**Father C. Sampson**

1906-1912

Father C. Sampson coming to Reilly Ridge as the fifth residing pastor was the first priest to serve the mission of Jerico, but the hardships of both parishes was too much for him and he was sent to other places.

**Father L. Craney**

1912-1914

As sixth residing pastor of Reilly Ridge and the mission of Jerico this priest remained here for six years.

**Father Neenan**

1914-1920

Father Neenan was a very pious priest, easy going, later he was sent to Strawberry Point where he died. He had a part basement dug and a furnace installed in the Jerico church.



**Father Martin Hogan**  
1898-1900







### SACRED HEART CHURCH-RECTORY Reilly Ridge

This is a beautiful air picture taken by order of Father Showalter. Reilly Ridge is the oldest Catholic parish in Chicksaw County.



Father Manternach and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weigel.

Father M. J. Manternach

1920-1923

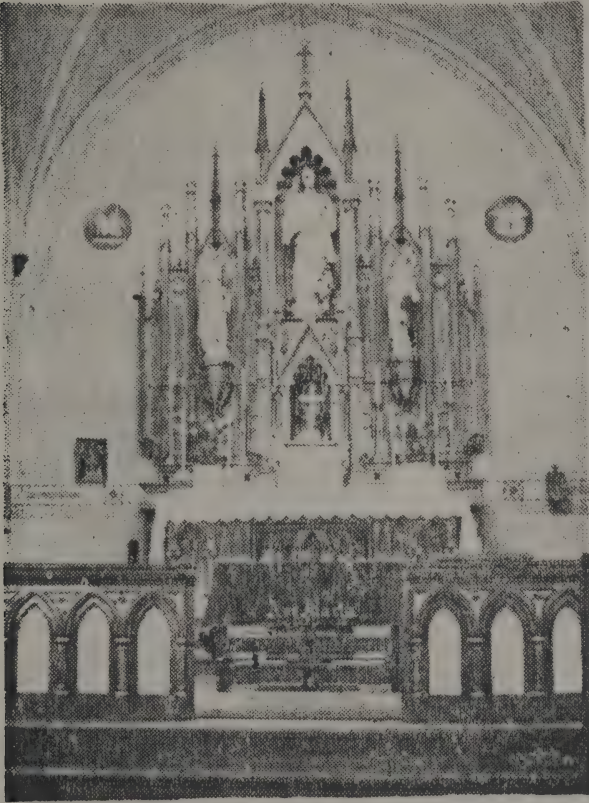
Father Manternach remained only a short time but during that time he remodeled the parsonage organized a choir in Jerico and Sunday School. During the summer months of that year the congregation of Reilly Ridge and Jerico were served from Dubuque.

Rev. C. Sampson

1923-1924

At Christmas time in 1923 Father Sampson returned on his own request to Reilly Ridge the second time and was a loved pastor of the parish until his fatal death on Thursday May 1st, 1924 on the Alta Vista railroad crossing when the auto in which he was riding was hit by a freight train and he was instantly killed.





## High Altar at Reilly Rid

Centered the Altar is a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to which this oldest Catholic Parish in Chickesaw County is dedicated. It is a beautiful piece of wood carving with The Last Supper below the altar stone dedicated to the service of God by the old Irish persecuted for their faith by the English of old and who came to this country to build a new nation.

### Father Sampson

The body of Father Sampson lay in state in St. Bernard's church in Alta Vista throughout Friday. Solenn Requiem Mass was celebrated on Saturday with Rev. Farley, Elma as celebrant; Rev. Zeien, Alta Vista, deacon; Father Collins, Cecelia, sub-deacon; and Father Bowen of New Hampton, master of ceremonies. Funeral services were held for Father Sampson Monday morning in Du-

buque and his remains were laid to rest in the space reserved for priest of the diocese in the cemetery there. Dean M. H. Carey of New Hampton accompanied the remains to Dubuque.

### Father M. J. Meyerhoffer

1927-1930

Father Meyerhoffer was the eleventh residing priest of Reilly Ridge. He had the choir organized to sing High Mass in Jerico but remained









## Rectory at Reilly Ridge

Beautifully landscaped by Father Holmberg 1945-1947, The residence of the priest of this old Irish parish since 1900, one of the first Catholic parishes organized in Chickasaw County,

only three years to serve the parish, only a short time ago he passed away in some other parish.

**Father J. E. Slowey**

1930-1932

Father Slowey as the twelfth priest of Reilly Ridge had a winning personality and he specially was in high esteem by non-Catholics of the community. He now is pastor of a parish in Eagle Grove.

**Father Albert Nees**

1932-1936

Father Nees done his best to carry the parishes during the depression years. He is now pastor in a parish in Independence.

**Father G. E. Drummy**

1936-1939

Father Drummy as the fourteenth







## St. Patrick Church Jerico

Church was erected in 1912 at a cost of \$8000. Father Phelan purchased a bell for the church and Father Steiert had the church beautifully decorated and stained windows installed.

priest of Reilly Ridge remained three years from 1936-1939. He is very socially with people and able to deliver good sermons. Now he is pastor of St. Mary's parish in Waucoma.

**Father Francis J. Phelan**  
1939-1941

Father Phelan during the short time he was at Reilly Ridge he published a pastoral bulletin very helpful to both parishes every week. He also decorated the church at Reilly Ridge and got a bell for the church in Jerico from St. Michaels in Garber. He is now pastor of St. Mary's church in McGregor.

**Father Victor Gerlemann**  
1941-1943

Father Gerlemann as the sixteenth residing priest remained only two years when he was called to a larger parish.

**Father G. V. Steiert**  
1943-1945

Father Steiert had St. Patrick church of Jerico beautifully decorated and with stained windows replaced.

**Father L. J. Holmberg**  
1945-1947

Father Holmberg had the rectory at Reilly Ridge remodeled and the surroundings of the church and rectory landscaped.





Father Showalter who was a chaplain in the navy has successfully lead the congregation since 1947. He installed new furnaces both at Reilly Ridge and Jerico and enlarged and remodeled th basement of St Patrick church of Jerico into a church hall.

**Rev. McDonald**

**1924-1926**

From 1924 until November of 1926 Father McDonald was priest of the parish, he was a very able speaker and was called to many neighboring parishes to preach. He organized the Holy Name Society and the Altar Society and a christian instruction class which were adopted by his successors. He is now pastor of a church in Waukon.

### Jerico and Reilly Ridge Today

Reilly Ridge is a little bigger parish than Jerico, about forty families belong to that parish while the Jerico parish counts about thirty-seven. The Jerico parish would be the largest if all the Catholic families living in that community would attend church in Jerico, St. Patrick Church of Jerico being established later than "Oud Lady of Lourdes" parish or St. Joseph and St. Mary's of New Hampton, some of the families that attend church there should attend church in Jerico as being the closest.

The Irish element so abundantly presented at Reilly Ridge has been replaced by the Bohemian element and in Jerico the founders of the parish have blessed this life and two are resting in the cemetery nearby the church in the shadow of the cross reacing up into heaven in testimony of the Catholic faith.



### St Patrick Cemetery

The resting place of Tom Ralph, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ralph, Mr. and Mrs. Zack Kapler and Weigel baby. This cemetery has been



lookt up on by some members in an orphan way contrary to sensible thinking. The cemetery is beautifully enclosed with evergreens planted by the writer.

### CHAPTER III

#### Churches of Jacksonville Township

#### PART II

#### The Crane Creek Lutheran Church



1863

As early as 1863 came to this community a group of earnest and resolute settlers, who believing with a deep conviction that regular and constant spiritual sustenance for the soul is necessary to the welfare of the human being, as his material nourishment for the body. These first Norsemen were, Ole Anderson Klugen, Thor Halversen Faaberg, Hans Oleson Nigaard, Kristian Olsen Steinbakken and Soren Thorbjornson.

1864

In 1864 came Otto Olson Nygaard Jetmund Knutson, Melchior Scheld-

rup Munson, Helge Matthews and Mikkell Svare.

1865

In 1865 Nils Ellingson, Lars Helgegaard and others came and most of all them names above had first settled in Stoughten, Wisc. community and then from there went to Yankton, S. Dak. Due to the unfriendliness of the Indians, These Pioneers again journeyed eastward in search for more suitable surroundings, which they found in the Crane Creek community.

#### From Gosterdahlen, Norway

Ten families who have made the ground stock of the Norwegian settlement of the Jerico and Saude community came from Gosterdahlen Norway and from the rugged land across the sea. These settlers had brought their sturdy honesty, their hardy determination to conquer and above all their love to God and the church of their childhood. Like all pioneers they endured many hardships, but in persevering they clung to their faith in God and worthwhile community enterprises. With their homes built, their first thought was that of securing the services of a pastor, who would baptize and instruct their children, conduct divine services, perform marriages, comfort the sick and dying and put aside the remains of their loved ones in God's acre.

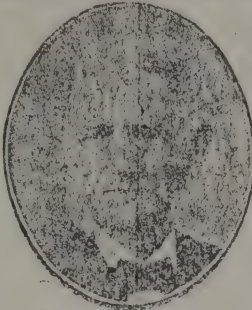
#### Pioneer Minister

In the year 1864 D. V. Koren who done missionary work in the community conducted services every six weeks in a school house which was located then on the Andrew





Anderson farm. Occasional services both Little Turkey and Crane Creek confirmants,



D. V. Koren  
1864

were also held in the Sommerville schoolhouse,

#### Congregation Organized at Little Turkey

In 1867 a congregation was organized in Little Turkey, now Sauge, Iowa, neighborhood. This congregation having called Dr. V. Koren as their pastor, built a church from timber logs. To this log church several from Crane Creek vicinity attended divine services.

#### Crane Creek Congregation Organized

According to parochial reports, the Crane Creek congregation was organized in the 1867 with sixty souls becoming members, and by 1869 the congregation had increased to 100 members. In 1871 the congregation was incorporated and a year later a portion of land (the present site) was purchased, located one mile east and two miles south of the present Jerico.

#### Church Built

In the year 1874 the first Lutheran church in the Crane Creek community was erected. It was a frame building, neatly built.

1875

In 1875 the first confirmation service was held in this church for

1877

In 1877 the congregation agreed to adopt the constitution as recommended by the Norwegian Synod. Having applied for membership, the congregation was admitted as a member of the Norwegian Synod at their district meeting held at Story City, Iowa. Las Hellegard represented Crane Creek.

1888

About the year 1888 a doctrinal controversy concerning the call conversation and election was raging in the Norwegian synod and the congregation split up into two factions. The secessionists, who expected \$600 as payment for their share in the property and moved up to Jerico and erected their church there and the others who from 1889 have been members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

#### Vacation School

Crane Creek, since it first organized, has seen the need of urging the parents to avail themselves of shorter and longer periods of elementary christian instruction. To begin with, vacation summer schools were held in homes conducted by competent instructors. Mrs. Shur Vikdal, Mr. Rottolt Bybavik and Mr. L. P. Domershaug, have in a period of years been credited as having taught the longest. Since the discontinuation of the vacation school plan, the Saturday plan has been adopted, allowing the children period of two hours instruction every Saturday forenoon during the duration of the public school year. In 1943 forty-two children were enrolled under the supervision of Rev. T. Orlin Torgesen and his wife.





## Crane Creek Lutheran Church

### Church Destroyed by Fire

On August 14, 1900 the congregation suffered the loss of their first church, destroyed by fire, caused by lightening. A new one was built under the leadership of Rev. M. P. Dommersnaes, at a cost of \$2800.

### Parsonage Built

During the year 1902 under the leadership of Rev. L. W. Boe the present site for the parsonage was purchased and a residence built.

### Parish Hall Built

During the time when Rev. Christen Heltné (1912-1922) was pastor of the congregation he had the parish hall built as a most suitable meeting place for Ladies Aid, Luther League, Saturday School and L. D. R.

### Language of the Church

For many years the language from the pulpit and for business has been Norwegian since the pastorate of

Rev. H. M. Finstad the English language has gradually come into use and mostly by the reason of the younger people who had become less familiar with the mother language of the pioneers. English is used more than Norwegian.

### Serving Other Parishes

Since 1889 Crane Creek has also served Immanuel congregation of Saude, Iowa and in 1937 a branch church was built in New Hampton which was named after a Norwegian Saint of Catholic Days of old Norway, St. Olaf at New Hampton, Ia. Both congregations are served by the Crane Creek pastor.

### Baptism

The first record of the congregation are not at hand because Rev. Moses the first pastor of the congregation took them with him when he left the parish in the year 1889 and went to Decorah. These records were later destroyed by fire. There are records from the year of 1889 to the present time and we learn from those records that the number







## Crane Creek Rectory

During the year 1902 a site was purchased and a Rectory built by Rev. L. W. Boe and in 1912 the parsonage was remodeled and the surroundings new land scaped.

of babies baptized from 1889 to spring 1921 were 326 children and up to 1942 the number was 482 baptisms. The records show also that there were 18 baptisms in 1907 and as low as 3 in the year 1903.

13 while the lowest was 3.

### Marriages

Since the year 1889 there have been 75 couples united in marriage to March 1921 and to 1942 there have been 132 marriages performed by the pastor of Crane Creek church.

### Confirmed

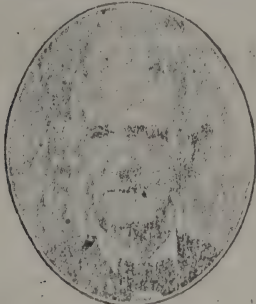
From the year 1890 until March 1921 there were 201 children confirmed and by 1942 the number was 407. The average number in a year was 9 and the highest for a year was

### Burials

Since 1889 till March 1921 there have been made 106 burials at Crane Creek cemetery and to 1942 the number was 166.



The Following Pastors Have  
Served Crane Creek



Dr. V. Koren  
1864-1869

Dr. V. Koren was a missionary pastor who built a log church in 1867 in Little Turkey which place was later named Saude. He also had services in a school house near the present Jerico which was standing on the Andrew Anderson farm about the year 1864.



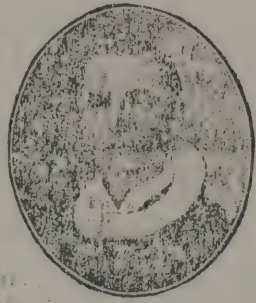
Dr. Lars W. Boe  
1901-1904

Dr. Lars Boe stayed only a short time but during that time the present site of the parsonage was purchased and a residence built in 1902.



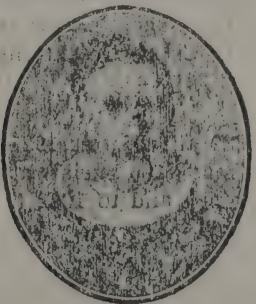
Rev John I. Moses  
1869-1889

Rev. Moses was the builder of the first church in 1874 and served the congregation longest of any pastor in the history of Crane Creek.



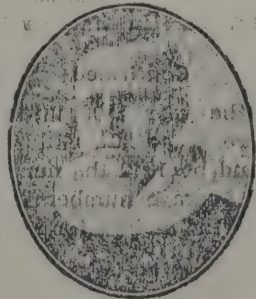
Rev. Otto Mostrom  
1904-1908

Rev. Mostrom was the second pastor of Crane Creek who followed a four year course in serving the congregation.



Rev. M. P. Dommersnaes  
1891-1901

Rev. M. P. Dommersnaes built a new church in the 1900 at a cost of \$2800.

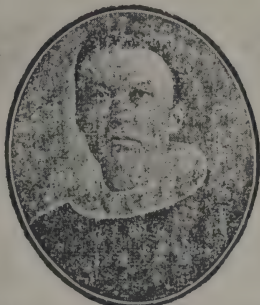


Rev. Olaf M. Wangenstein  
1908-1912

This pastor served four years only like his two predecessors, Mostrom and Boe.







**Rev. Christen Heltne**  
1912-1922

Rev. Heltne had the parish hall built in 1913, he had puritan learning toward social activities.



**Rev. J. A. Erikson**  
1922-1927

Rev. Erikson served the congregation for five years, taken better with the young people of the congregation.



**Rev. H. M. Finstad**  
1927-1940

A younger spirit came into the life of the congregation during the time of pastor Finstad, he was well liked by Lutherans and non-Lutherans alike and helped organize St. Olaf congregation in New Hampton in 1937.

### **Rev. T. Orlin Torgeson**

1940-1948

Rev. Torgeson served as the tenth pastor of the congregation, he had the parsonage remodeled and under his leadership the seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation was observed on Sunday, June 21, 1942.

During the First World War Crane Creek had 18 stars on its service flag of young serving from the congregation in the war with one boy dying of the flu in a camp, James Attleson, who died at Camp Jefferson Barracks Oct. 26, 1918 and he is buried in the Crane Creek cemetery. A special welcome home service was given by the congregation in which Rev. Madson of Boyd gave the service at the church. At noon free dinners were served to all present and special tables were reserved for the soldiers. The following Soldiers and Sailors were present: Grover Johnon, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Knutsos, Ole Knutson, Bert Douglas, Arthur Cutsforth, Ole Anderson, P. Powers, I. Ferkingstad, Hans Attleson, Johs Hildahl, Olie Fossen, Olaf Thronndson, Douglas Cochran, Sjur Vikdal, Jens Vikdal, Alfred Jordan, Williams Kearney, Ole O. Johnson, G. Gott, Ole Hoppestad and Irvin Alexson.

### **Second World War**

In the second World War the following boys served from the congregation: Jetmund Nystel, Ingvald Nystel, Erick Nystel, Alfred Jerdee, Alfred Attleson, John Attleson, Paul Flatjord, Gilbert Christenson and Arthur Gordon.





### THE LYDIA LADIES AID Crane Creek Church 1942

#### CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

There are three active church organizations in the congregation, the Lydia Ladies Aid, The Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation and the Luther League.

#### THE LYDIA LADIES AID

Mrs. Halvor Nelson, the Ladies Aid historian is to be credited with the following writeup of that organization.

One day in May in the year 1887 a number of ladies met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Halvorson, who at that time lived in Jerico in the house now owned by Andrew Thronsdon. Mr. Halvorson was the parochial school teacher and there was no resident pastor, this congregation being served by Rev. Svenno. Mrs. Halvorson, who was a sister of Paul & William Sanderson, took the lead in organizing a Ladies' Aid. This Aid was to work for the home church and also for home and foreign missions.

Records were kept of all the meetings, but this book was lost so that what we write in this early history is only what some of the older mem-

bers have been able to tell us.

There were eight women who joined the Ladies' Aid at this first meeting. They were:

Mrs. Kari (Gunnar) Halvorson  
Mrs. Kari (George) Otteson  
Mrs. Ingeborg (Halvor) Nelson  
Mrs. Kari (Jens) Attleson  
Mrs. Kari (Tollef) Ellestad Johnson  
Mrs. Martha (Peter) Ellestad Johnson  
Mrs. Betsy (John) Gordon  
Miss Sonneva I. Olson, now Mrs. Tom Tompson of Duluth, Minn.

The officers elected at this meeting were Mrs. Gunnar Halvorson for president and Mrs. George Otteson, and Mrs. Fred Christenson often walked to aids in the Jerico community. Sometimes they had to walk home again too, but most often they caught a ride part of the way with someone going in their direction.

Peter Ellestad Johnson very often drove the team for the ladies when Ladies' Aid day came around, but one time when he couldn't go he asked his niece, Sigrid Ellestad, now Mrs. Paul Sanderson, to drive his team for







him, which she consented to do. The team he brought for her to drive was a big white horse and a little black mule, and although she was teased a great deal about her "evenly" matched team, they did get to Ladies' Aid and home again too without any flat tires or engine trouble.

Mrs. Andrew Johnson, who is a daughter of Mrs. Kari Attleson, recalls a meeting held at the Fred Christenson home to which she took her mother, driving a single horse and top buggy. When they arrived at the Christenson home they learned that Mrs. Christenson had sat at the bedside of her sick mother all night. In the morning she had gone home and packed her house so that everything should be spic and span when the ladies arrived in the afternoon.

The Aid continued as an active organization for several years and during those years Mrs. Halvorson remained president and Mrs. George Otteson, secretary-treasurer. When the Halvorsens moved out of the community, the Ladies' Aid was discontinued and for a number of years there was no aid until it was reorganized in 1901.

On October 2nd, 1901, a number of ladies from the Crane Creek Congregation, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Otteson. This is located six miles north of New Hampton, and two miles west and three miles south of Jerico, on what is now Highway no. 63. Due to the absence of the pastor, Rev. L. W. Boe, the meeting was conducted by L. P. Dommersnaes who was parochial school teacher here.

There were twelve ladies who became members at this first meeting. They were:

Mrs. George Otteson (Mrs. Ole Jerdee's mother)  
 Mrs. P. J. Ellestad (Grover Johnson's mother)  
 Mrs. Tollef Ellestad (Mrs. Paul Sanderson's mother)  
 Mrs. Albert Herman (Mrs. Paul

Sanderson's sister)

Mrs. Martin Nelson (Halvor Flatjord's sister)

Mrs. Torkel Attleson (Sjur Attleson's mother)

Mrs. Jens Attleson (Mrs. Otto O. Otteson's mother)

Mrs. John Gordon (Edward Gordon's mother)

Mrs. Otto O. Otteson (Mrs. Edward Gordon's mother)

Mrs. Anna H. Peterson (Knut Peterson's mother)

Mrs. Jim Johnson (Mildred Johnson's mother)

Mrs. Fred Christenson (mother of Ole, John, Gertrude)

Mrs. George Otteson was elected president and Mrs. P. J. Ellestad treasurer, and both of them served four years. The first three annual business meetings were held at the George Otteson home. This home is now occupied by his son, Andrew G. Otteson and family.



Rev. Finstad on his Wedding Day



The second meeting of the newly organized Ladies' Aid was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Nelson in Jerico. Five new names were added to the list of members at this meeting. They were:

Mrs. Knut Snethun (Torkel Attleson's sister)

Mrs. John Attleson (Ed Attleson's mother)

Mrs. Ingeborg Halvorson (Nels & Henry's mother)

Mrs. Andrew Johnson (Mrs. Sjur Attleson's mother)

Mrs. Ole I. Olson (Mrs. Andrew G. Otteson's mother)

At the third meeting held at the Albert Herman home, Mrs. Ole Njos, Mrs. Hans Njos' mother, became a member, at the fourth meeting held at John Gordon home, Mrs. Jetmund Anderson, Mrs. Andres Nystel's mother, became a member, and at the fifth meeting held at the P. J. Ellestad home, Mrs. Anfin Thronsdon (Andrew's mother) became a member. Then in March Mrs. Hans Uglum (Bakke Olas mother) joined and in June Mrs. John Ofstethun, Mrs. Jacob Urne's mother) so that before the organization was a year old there were twenty-two members. Only seven of these members are now living and four of them are still active members of the Ladies' Aid. They are Mrs. Martin Nelson, Mrs. Torkel Attleson, Mrs. Sigrid Otteson, and Mrs. Andrew Johnson. Mrs. Otteson, however, has been unable to attend meetings for over a year because of a broken hip. No new members were added to this list until the fourth annual business meeting when Mrs. Andrew Thronsdon joined, except Miss Nelli Boe who joined during the second year and was a member for only a short time. Since then there have been some dropping out and new ones added each year so the membership has remained about the same from year to year between twenty-five and thirty. The

largest membership was thirty-four which was in the year 1923. Mrs. Mikkel Njos was president at that time.

The membership dues which have always been ten cents, are paid whether the member attends a meeting or not. Each member also pays ten cents a year per capita dues which goes to W.M.F. headquarters to be used for printing programs and pamphlets for our use, and it pays for one subscription to the News Bulletin which is sent to the president of the Ladies' Aid once a month. It was in the year 1911 at a meeting held the 22nd of November at the P. J. Ellestad home that our Ladies' Aid decided to join the Kvindernes Missions Forbund.

Business meetings for the purpose of electing officers and balancing the books for the year have always been held in the fall, sometimes as late as in December. It was not until the 27th of November, in 1907 at a yearly meeting held at the Andrew Thronsdon home, that the Ladies' Aid voted to transact their annual business at the first meeting held in the month of October.

It was not always easy for the women to attend the meetings of the Ladies' Aid in the earlier days of its existence. They didn't have a car waiting for them at the door when they were ready to go as most of us have now, and they didn't have a telephone so they could call their neighbors to see if they were going. Some of them drove a horse and buggy, others a team and lumber wagon, but still others having no other way of getting to the meeting would walk and hope that there would be someone there with whom they could ride part of the way home again.

It was not always easy to entertain either in those days, as many had small houses. The Hall wasn't built so they all had to entertain in their homes. I can well remem-





ber some meetings mother had, when there was only the kitchen and bedroom downstairs, and two rooms upstairs. It was sometimes rather crowded, but there was always a way of getting along. When it was time to eat, some of the ladies had to crowd into the bedroom, some upstairs and others in the stairway, in order to make room for the table. This was stretched to its limit kitty-corner across the room, and set with dishes that we children had gone to the neighbors to borrow for the occasion. Everyone had to sit up to the table to eat and it wasn't just sandwiches, cake, cookies, and coffee, but potatoes, meat, sauce, lefse, and other dishes as well. There was a great deal of opposition when this method of serving was discontinued, as many thought it quite an outrage to have visitors come into their homes and be expected to eat from plates held on their laps. When the change was first made the plates and food were usually passed around, but now everything is usually placed on a table and they all help themselves. No one is supposed to serve more than sandwiches, cake, cookies, pickles, and coffee now, so it is quite a simple matter to entertain compared with the earlier years of the organization.

The programs have always been of a devotional nature with Scripture Reading and Prayer and usually either a short talk or reading by the pastor and hymn singing by the audience and sometimes a reading by some member of the Aid. The Pastor always had charge of the meetings until Nov. 13, 1929, at a meeting held at the John Vikdal home when Rev. H. M. Finstad announced that the president should preside thereafter. Mrs. Ed Haugen was president at the time, so she started that practice.

The secretary's report was nev-

er a part of the regular meetings until it was decided at a business meeting held at the Mrs. Sena Haugen De Foe home Oct. 21, 1924, that the secretary's report be read at each meeting. Mrs. Grover Johnson was elected secretary at this meeting and she also started entering the reports in English. Before that everything was written in Norwegian language.

Meetings have usually been held every other Wednesday afternoon, except during the World War when it was decided at a meeting held March 6, 1918, at the Mikkel Njos home, that the meetings should be held on Thursday afternoon. This was because the American Food Administration designated Wednesday as wheatless day. At a meeting held Nov. 14, 1917, at the Otie G. Otteson home, it was decided that no meat or cookies should be included in the lunch while the war lasted.

It was also during the World War that we began using the English language. Until that time Norwegian was used altogether, but since it has been mostly English. It was decided at an annual business meeting held Oct. 25, 1928, at the Ingeberg Gordon home that the language to be used should be decided by the hostess, and most of them prefer the English.

During the thirty-six years since the Ladies' Aid was re-organized \$7,841.93 have been taken in. This makes an average of \$217.83 a year. Of this amount, \$1431.34 have been used to pay expenses in connection with the local church. One of these expenses was the purchase of the Alter painting "Jesu Korsfostelse" at the cost of \$71.45. It was for the purpose of helping the home congregation that the Ladies' Aid was first organized, and after the interests of the local congregation were taken care of, it was up to the members



of the Ladies' Aid to decide what other organizations within the church they wished to help.

Mission work both at home and abroad has been the outstanding interest of the Ladies' Aid as \$2-415.32 have been used for this purpose. \$806.73

have been sent to the budget and \$401.79 to local charity, that is. gifts of money to people in our own community. \$784.27 have been used for local expenses of the Ladies' Aid. Other gifts are:

Aase Haugen Home at Decorah, Iowa	\$395.33
Beloit Orphans Home, Beloit, Iowa	225.00
Pension Fund	135.19
Deaconess' Home	95.00
St Thomas T. B. Hospital in Minneapolis	60.00
For flowers placed on caskets	53.50
Relief Fund	34.00
"Jubelfondet"	25.00
For mission work at Camp Dodge	25.00
Mission Box Dept.	33.80
In Memoriam	40.00
Seamans Mission	12.00
Rescue Home	10.00
Red Cross	10.00
Cradle Roll	18.00
Thank Offering Dept.	32.44

Other gifts sent away include 27 quarts of sauce sent to Beloit Orphan's Home at Beloit, Iowa in 1919, 21 dressed chickens were sent to the Aase Haugen Home at Decorah, Iowa, for Christmas in 1923, and 13 dressed chickens in 1924.

In 1924 a package was sent to the Rescue Home in Minneapolis. This included 11 sheets, 12 pairs of pillowcases, 11 towels and 4 washcloths.

In 1932 individual gifts of night gowns and night shirts were sent to the inmates of the Aase Haugen Home for Christmas. These were made by some of the members of the Ladies' Aid and Martha Mission.

In 1933 a Thanksgiving gift of 56 quarts of canned fruit, made by members of the Ladies' Aid was sent to the Aase Haugen Home. These gifts, although they do not require much effort on our part, mean a great deal to the institutions that receive them.

The first distribution of mission boxes, so far as I can learn from the records, was at a meeting held at the Mrs. Sigrid Otteson home, July 11, 1906. There is no record of the amount collected in those years nor any further mention of mission boxes being distributed until April 27, 1921, when \$43.00 was taken in. This is the largest amount collected through the Mission Box.

The first sale recorded was held September 29, 1920, and brought in \$136.90. This is the largest sale recorded although there are five other sales of over \$100.00 each.

The most money taken in any year was in 1929-30 when \$467.47 was taken in. Mrs. Ed Hougen was president that year, and also the following year, when we have the largest expenses recorded, having paid out \$535.00 during the year.

In 1932 a kitchen was built onto the Hall the expense being shared by the Aid and Luther League.

#### JANUARY 1, 1938

Since this history was written several changes have taken place. Two of our charter members have died. Mrs. Sigrid Otteson died Feb. 17, 1938, and Mrs. Synnove Attleson died July 12, 1938, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew G. Otteson who lived in the home where our Ladies' Aid was organized have both passed away and their home is now occupied by their three children, Gilbert, Olga and Aurther. Mrs. Andrew (Dena) Otteson died Feb. 13, 1938, and Andrew G. Otteson died Oct. 2, 1939.

Since January 1, 1937, all babies baptized in the congregation have been enrolled in the Cradle Roll. So far eighteen babies have been en-





rolled.

The annual business meeting was changed so that instead of having it the first meeting in October, we now have it the first meeting in Dec.

The largest expense recorded was in 1930-31 when \$535.00 was paid out during the year. Now the largest expense is recorded in 1937-38.

Mrs. Synnove Attleson has held an office in the Ladies' Aid one-third of the time since it was re-organized having held office 12 yrs. out of the 36. She was president one year, secretary six years, and treasurer five years. Mrs. Halvor Flatjord comes next with seven years as an officer, and Mrs. Bertha Jerdee six years. Mrs. Jerdee has been president oftener than any other member--except Mrs. Heltne who served eight years--having five yrs. to her credit. Her mother, Mrs. George Oteson, comes next with four years as president so that together they have served nine years--one-fourth of the time since the organization was started.

To Mrs. Martin Nelson goes the distinction of having entertained the Ladies' Aid oftener than anyone else--having 33 meetings to her credit. Mrs. Synnove Attleson comes next with 32 meetings and Mrs. Andrew Thronsdon third with 29 meetings.

Mrs. Maud Thompson holds the distinction of having entertained the meeting which brought in the biggest collection recorded in the books. This was just a regular meeting held at the Hall, July 1, 1926, and the collection was \$17.35. Mrs. Synnove Attleson comes second with a collection of \$17.05 taken in at a meeting held at her home March 9, 1927 and Mrs. Paul Sanderson third with a collection of \$15.45 taken in at a meeting at her home March 11, 1925.

In going through the records for the first five years, I find that some of the credit for the success of the Ladies Aid must go to the men. Some of them were very faithful in attending the meetings showing their interest, in their willingness to hitch up the horses, and going along to drive, so the women could attend as often as possible. George Otteson attended 63 out of a possible 112,

Torkel Atteson 58, Peter Ellestad Johnson 39, Knut Snethun 34, and Jetmund Anderson 30. Others were mentioned quite frequently but not as regularly as those mentioned above.

When we see how much good has been done with the money taken in, we can not help but feel that the faithful work and the efforts put forth by both the men and the women have been very much worthwhile.

When \$541.60 was paid out. This large expense was partly due to the installation of a bathroom at the parsonage.

Members added to the Ladies' Aid since 1905 include:

Mrs. Albertine (Otie) Otteson  
Mrs. Bertha (Ole) Jerdee  
Mrs. Kristina (John) Jerdee  
Mrs. Andrina (Joe) Nystel  
Mrs. Torbjor (Mikkell) Njos  
Mrs. Gertude (Alfred) Uglum  
Mrs. Benta (Ole) Jacobson  
Mrs. Martha (Knut) Peterson  
Mrs. Olaf Wangensten  
Mrs. Betsy (Knut) Kjarvik  
Mrs. Annetta (James) Otteson  
Mrs. Anna (Andrew) Otteson  
Mrs. Anna (Andrew) Anderson  
Mrs. Brita (Halvor) Flatjord  
Mrs. Geargina (Jacob) Urness  
Mrs. Anna (Ludvig) Malheim  
Mrs. Carrie (Chris) Uglum  
Mrs. C. P. Heltne  
Mrs. Hannah (Ed) Johnson  
Mrs. Maud (Ole) Thompson  
Mrs. Ingeborg (John) Vikdal  
Mrs. Betsy (Ed) Haugen  
Mrs. Sena Haugen De Foe  
Mrs. Stena (Andrew) Nystel  
Mrs. Tom Johnson  
Mrs. Pete Jacobson  
Mrs. Gertude (Bert) Douglas  
Mrs. Andrena (Sjur) Attleson  
Mrs. J. A. Erickson  
Mrs. Clara (Lars) Sanderson  
Mrs. Cora (F. W.) Nelson  
Mrs. Josie (Grover) Johnson  
Mrs. Erik Slindee  
Mrs. Sigrid (Paul) Sanderson  
Mrs. Johnnah (Halvor) Christenson  
Mrs. Mary (Nels) Halvorson  
Mrs. Mary (Ed) Attleson  
Mrs. Clara (Iver) Njos  
Mrs. Bertha (Sjur) Sanderson  
Mrs. Cora (Clarence) Oaugen  
Mrs. H. M. Finstad  
Mrs. Trena (Alvie) Flatjord



Mrs. Hannah (Olaf) Flatjord  
 Mrs. Bernice (Theodore) Haugen  
 Mrs. Edith (Alfred) Jacobson  
 Mrs. Jeanette (Halvor) Nelson  
 Mrs. Sigrid (Hans) Ronnie

Mrs. Sylvia (Walter) Dreckman  
 Mrs. Anna (Henry) Halvorson  
 Mrs. Ella (John) Gordon  
 Mrs. Claretta (Alfred) Vikdal



### The Luther League

#### CRANE CREEK LUTHER LEAGUE

The second organization that was organized in the parish was the Luther League which was brought to life by Rev. Otto Mostrom of which the first meeting was held in the year 1904.

The aims of the Luther League is first, Especially to awaken and nourish the spiritual life among the young, also to broaden and enable this interest for all that is good in life, and thus develop a harmonious Christian Character.

Second, To stimulate its members to a greater and more systematic work for the building up of the Kingdom of God, at home and abroad.

Third, To foster the spirit of unity and church loyalty among its members. For several years after it was organized the Luther League met on Sunday afternoons at the various homes within the parish. Later it began meeting on Sunday evenings

about two times each month.

The officers decided upon to take charge of the meetings were: a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. These officers and other committees elected were to serve six months. This length of time has been changed to twelve months. In addition to these officers, a program committee consisting of two to four members were chosen to arrange programs for the Luther League meetings. For any special events additional committees were to be elected.

The programs rendered at these meetings usually opened with the singing of a hymn, which was followed with a Scripture reading and a prayer by the pastor. Various readings and musical numbers revealing Christ and His work, constituted the remainder of the program. The meeting closed by singing the 5th Doxology and reading the Lord's Prayer in unison. A fellowship hour follow-







ed the program, part of which time was spent in playing games. At the close of the afternoon or evening, lunch was served to everyone present.

Since the Crane Creek hall was built meetings have been held at the hall in the same pattern as they had been known in the past when they were held at the homes of the

parishers. Meetings are held every two weeks and the society has a membership of about forty for 1942 in which year the following were its officers; President, Thelma Gordon; Vice president, Andrew Nystel, Jr.; Secretary, Percival Johnson; Treasurer, Gilbert Otteson.



### THE CRANE CREEK CHOIR

#### (RANE CREEK CHOIR

The first choir to be organized was by Rev. Mostrom in 1904, and the choir has always been a part in the Luther League. In the year 1942 the following were members of the choir Mrs. Halvor Nelson, Ole Sanderson, Mrs. Iver Njus, Arthur Gordon, Omar Nystel, Thelma Gordon, Micheal Njus, Geneva Nystel, Stella Gordon, Andrew Njstel, Jr., Jeanne Halverson, Ardline Halverson, Sjur Vikdal, Clifford Anderson, Rev. Torgeson, Mrs. Grover Johnson was pianist.

#### LUTHERAN DAUGHTERS OF THE

#### REFORMATION

The Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation were organized August 23, 1941 by Rev. T. Orlin Torgeson at the Crane Creek hall. At the first meeting there were only five members. They were: Jeanna Halverson, Ardline Halverson, Anna Mae Halverson, Mavis Sanderson, and Charlene Gordon. The first meeting consisted of Scripture reading, songs, and Rev. Torgeson explained what the organization meant. The members also decided to hold monthly meetings. Rev. Torgeson brought up the fact that the members had to pay yearly dues amounting to fifteen cents; five of which would go to the district and ten to the organization headquarters. Ten cents were to be paid regularly at each meeting if a member attended. The officers elect-



ed at the meeting for the coming year were: President, Jeanna Halverson; Vice President, Mavis Sanderson; Secretary, Arldine Halverson; Treasurer, Charlene Gordon. The

organization decided to elect three advisory members to assist them in their work. They were: Mrs. Grover Johnson, Mrs. Halvor Nelson, and Mrs. Sjur Sanderson.



### The Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation

Secretary-Treasurer. Meetings were here held every other Wednesday afternoon from one until four o'clock and everyone was busy during those hours except during the devotional period -----

--All members, when joining the Ladies' Aid, paid 25 cents and thereafter 10 cents per meeting. This money was used in buying material for making aprons, men's shirts, quilts and pillowcases to be sold at the annual sale or bazaar. Knitting needles were also kept busy making mittens, stockings and sweaters to be sold in the fall. -----

--There were some who were opposed to this organization and called it a "sladreforening", but in spite

of hardships and opposition, these ladies made enough garments so that in the fall of the year they had their first auction sale at the Peter Ellsted Johnson home. They gathered at the Johnson home for dinner, after which the sale was held out on the layn. The auctioneer was Andrew Tompson (Myr Andres) a brother of Ole A. Tompson. Mrs. Butler Vikdal, in telling about this sale said, "I don't remember much about the sale, men eg huksa det at han far kjpte ei halve thoasnelde og betalte fem og tredive cent fro (I don't remember much about the sale, but I remember that father bought a half spool of thread and paid 35c for it.) -----







The objectives of the society are:

1st. To lead the young women to know Jesus Christ as their Savior

2nd. To be a means through which their religious life may find expression.

3rd. To acquaint them and train them for Christian service in the church.

4th. To unite the societies of the younger women into cooperative efforts for work in the church.

The L.D.R. flower is the forget-me-not. The legend of this flower, relates back to one day when God came to the garden of unnamed flowers and whispered to each its name. Another day He came back and asked each flower its name. The flowers all answered excepting a little blue flower, which replied: "I was concerned with your glory the day you gave me my name that I forgot my name." God answered, "Forget-me-not."

We as L. D. R. girls try to be like this little flower-so concerned with God's glorifying His name, that we forget our own selves and our own name.

The Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation, the Auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America is an organization of the younger women of the church. This organization is not a new one. In almost every Lutheran school such organizations have been found. The L.D.R. are the first organization within the Lutheran Church to place Jewish Missions on their prescribed list of projects.

Miss Rebecca Millunchick a representative of the organization among the Jews took up her work in Brooklyn, N. Y. in Sept. 1937. Other projects are the Bethany Indian Missions at Wittenburg, Wis. Home Findings under the Board of Charities, added support to the two Missions stations at Teller and Igloo, Alaska.

Members who have entered since the day it was organized are: Stella

Gordon, Thelma Gordon, Geraldine Gordon, Lola Mae Johnson. and Margaret Jerdee.

The Crane Creek Lutheran Church since 1942.

## CRANE CREEK LUTH. CHURCH

1941-1951

The present membership of Crane Creek Church stands at 244 baptized members. We know that the children of our farms no longer stay at home as they used to when so much of the work was done by hand. For this reason the membership of any rural congregation faces a steady drop in the years ahead. We try to teach that the children should find their living in the soil but there are too many who shorter hours and easy money in town too strong a pull.

Our average year reports 6 baptism to 4 funerals and at this rate we are just keeping pace with the present level of membership.

On Sunday June 21 of 1942 Crane Creek Congregation celebrated its 75th Anniversary. A special booklet was written by Pastor T. O. Torgerson and other extensive preparations were made for that day. Former Pastors were invited back to speak again, and officials of the Church were present to help the congregation recall its past with all those blessings, and also to turn the eyes of the congregation toward the future with all the growing responsibilities it would face.

Pastor Torgerson resigned from his work due to poor health. On July 18, 1948 Pastor Bjorlie was installed as the pastor of the Crane Creek, Immanuel, and St. Olaf Congregations.

It was a joy to the new pastor to receive a new car from his parish as a special gift that first year.

The Lydia Ladies of Crane Creek Church started giving a Smorgasbord as a fall Church supper in



1949. The pastor's wife explained the work that needed to be done and the ladies worked very hard to make it a success. That first supper did a lot to bring friends together for good fellowship and also brought over \$400.00 into the treasury. Each year has seen an improvement in the church and the Hall as a result of the work of the Ladies Aid. In 1950 the congregation brought a special Christmas present for the Church, a new Hammond Electric Organ. The Ladies' Aid bought \$600.00 worth of new carpeting; and new cathedral lighting fixtures were installed that year. Services are held every other Sunday with an average attendance of 160. The Congregation's income in 1950 including the Ladies Aid, Luther League, Choir, and Brotherhood came to \$6,307.00.

The Congregation conducts a Bible School each Saturday morning during the school year together with Immanuel Church in Saude. There are 4 teachers who, together with the Pastor, teach 53 children the Word of God.

One night the men from St. Olaf Church in New Hampton came out to the Hall to help the men from Crane Creek set up a Brotherhood. Since 1944 20 to 30 men have continued to meet once each month. They have a devotional program, practical farm topics, musical numbers, Ladies nights, and an annual Father and son banquet.

In 1950 the Luther League sent 3 of its young members to the International Convention in Saskatoon, Canada. It was a real inspiration for these young people to come back from this 4,000 mile trip and share their experiences with their friends.

### PART III

#### The Crane Baptist Church

The third house of worship which was erected in Jacksonville Township was the Crane Creek Baptist Church located one mile east and

two miles south of Jerico in the year 1885.

#### First Baptist Services

The first Baptist services were held occasionally in tents at the Old Jacksonville where Hazzard Green the builder of that town was the preacher, he was not an ordained Minister and the early Baptist settlers were not organized.

1858

In the year 1858 a Baptist congregation was organized by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Shaffer. Mr. and Mrs. John Shaffer, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dane, Mr. John Davidson, Mr. H. Markel, Mrs. John Badchley with Rev. J. C. H. Miller as minister. A school house standing on the lot where later the church was erected

#### Crane Creek Baptist Church

1885-1900

was used for their services.

1885

In the year 1885 Mr. W. G. Shaffer donated three-fourth of an acre one mile east and two miles south and a few rods east of Jerico to be used for the erection of a Baptist Church. The house of worship was erected at a cost of \$2500. It was a little frame building with plain white walls inside but a place to offer praise and worship to God. The erection of the church was a great sacrifice by the early settlers.

#### Ministers of the Church

The first minister was Rev. G. G. H. Miller, his successors were as follows: Rev. Brown, Rev. T. Sherman, Rev. T. C. Brikes, Rev. J. A. Laphen, Rev. I. W. Edson and the last Rev serving the congregation was Rev. W. Brinch.

1890-1900

Up to the year 1890 the number of souls who were members of the







Leaders of the Crane Creek Church

Top row: Nels Halverson, Iver Njus, Clarence Gordon, Rev. T. O. Torgeson. Bottom: John J. Attleson, Andrew Thronson, Halvor Flatjord, Andrew Nystel, Edward Gordon, Alfred Vikdal. Picture was taken in 1942

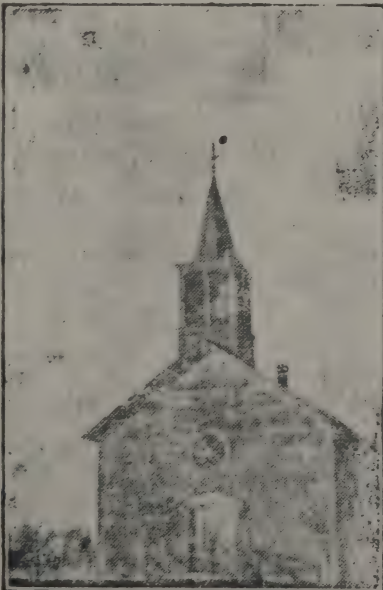


Emanuel Church Saude  
Served by the Pastor of Crane  
Creek Luth.Church.





The Saturday School  
Crane Creek Luth. Church



The Crane Baptist Church

congregation were in the neighborhood of sixty. Since that time a gradual decrease took place, most members moving to New Hampton where a new congregation was disorganized and in 1920 the property was sold at public auction to Ole Thompson for \$350 who moved the building on his farm which was used for some time as a dance hall.

#### BAPTIST CEMETERY

Burials of Baptist were first made up on the hill east of Mrs. Anna Olson residence later the graves were moved on the corner where the cemetery is now located, one of the oldest graves found there is that of Anna, wife of Sammual Johnson who died in Feb. 1859.

#### Sacred Heart Church

At the Sacred Heart Church at Reilly Ridge in the years from 1867 to 1951 620 baptisms have been recorded and marriages in the years







The Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation  
Crane Creek Luth. Church



Baptist Cemetery Today

of 1867 to 1951 132 marriages have been performed there were more as the records are not complete. Burials from 1900 to 1951 were 67 in number. In February 1921 a choir

was organized by Father Manternach and in June 1932 the first High Mass was sung in St. Patrick church Jerico.







New Bridge at Jerico

**FINAL CHAPTER**

Jerico and Jacksonville township done also their share in fighting in the Second World War. Many boys were drafted an one Jerico boy made the supreme sacrifice. Tech.

killed in action in Cicily, Aug. 4, 1943. He was born near Jerico on July 7, 1916 the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson and received his education at the public school of Jacksonville later working on a farm near Jerico and Minn. On Feb. 7, 1941, he enlisted into the army ad was



Tech. Sgt. Stanley Johnson

Sgt. Elver Stanley Johnson was



S2c Donald Knutson







The Ole Knutson's Family Picture







Mr. and Mrs. Jeff A. Knutson their Wedding Day





sent from Fort Snelling to Fort Washington and from there to Fort Ord, Calif. and on Aug. 25, 1942 he was sent from Camp Pickett, Vir. to the North African area. On Aug. 5, 1942 he was united in marriage to

ing in the Jerico community.

#### A WONDERFUL PEOPLE

The ten pioneer families expelled by the Indians at Yanktown, S. Dak. and who made the settlement of Jerico left a fine stock of people, a good Americans and good neighbors and all the others Irish, Germans and Yankee's built a community worth calling the best in the state.



#### Sic Paul F. Flatjord

Bertha Werner of New Hampton. Memorial services were held at Crane Creek church Sunday Sept. 12, 1943. Other boys of which we have pictures were Donald Knutson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff A. Knutson who entered the Navy Feb. 13, 1942 and Paul F. Flatjord son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Flatjord.

#### WHAT WAR DID TO THE COMM.

During the second world war many young people or those who were not called into service went forth where there were shorter hours and better pay than on the farm. several of those boys who had served in the war or were employed otherwise never returned to the home community or to farming, now there is many boys married and living in New Hampton and Waterloo who formerly made their living on farm-

















